THE TIMES 40P

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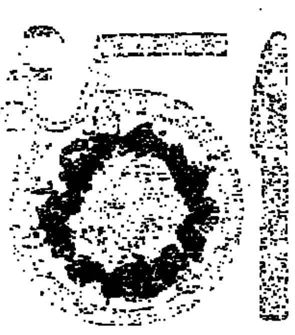
PAGE 34



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The week's programmes in full, plus film highlights

Maxwell: Peter Jay's verdict

Weekend, P6

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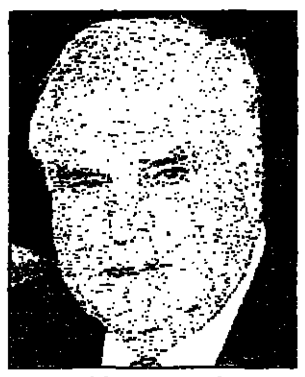
PAGE 5

Kohl alarmed by opposition to unity

Nation state's day is over, Britain told

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS



Kohl: "A question of war and peace"

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday urged Europe to turn its back on the nation state and resist efforts by Britain at the Maastricht review to slow down the advance to deeper integration of the Union.

In a strong speech at the University of Louvain, Herr Kohl sounded a note of alarm over the growing opposition to the plan for monetary union and the other steps towards greater union set out in the Maastricht treaty. Europe seemed to be in a "period of uncertainty in which the very continuation of European integration was being questioned". He did not believe, however, that "the Europeans have become tired of Europe again".

Herr Kohl said there were grave dangers in slipping back to old ways and recalled Germany's invasion of Belgium in the two World Wars. "European integration is in reality a question of war and peace in the 21st century." He endorsed the remark made last year by the late President Mitterrand of France that "nationalism is war".

"We have no desire to return to the nation state of old. It cannot solve the great problems of the 21st century. Nationalism has brought great suffering to our continent." This did not mean, however, the creation of a super-state. "It does not and never will exist," he said.

The Chancellor set out German demands for the review of the Maastricht treaty at the inter-governmental conference (IGC). Most of them are opposed by Britain and the Major Government is committed to setting out its terms in a White Paper before the conference gets under way at a summit in Turin on March 29.

A setback at the IGC would put Europe back for more than a generation, Herr Kohl said. He also emphasised that while the European Union was preparing to take on more members, "the slowest ship in the convoy should not be allowed to determine its speed". The maritime metaphor was adopted by Herr Kohl and President Chirac of France last month to depict Britain's refusal to accept any deeper integration.

"If individual partners are not prepared or able to participate in certain steps towards integration, the others should not be denied the opportunity to develop increased co-operation," he said.

The warning reflects frustration over the British Government's stance. Continental leaders are aware that any state can use its veto to block changes to the EU treaty. Britain is far from alone in resisting aspects of the German agenda. France's Gaullist presidency is loath to cede more than a little ground on increasing majority voting and it does not want the European Parliament given more power. Sweden and Finland do not want to participate in a common defence.

Britain is closer to Germany than France on the need for rapid enlargement of the EU to Central and Eastern Europe. Herr Kohl, who was receiving an honorary degree, said it would be "disastrous" if enlargement were to dilute the Union's strength. "I would find it equally disastrous if Europe were only able to derive its strength from keeping others out," he said.

For Germany, the top priority at the IGC was strengthening the common foreign and security policy. All member states except Britain concede that this means a move to more qualified majority voting. Herr Kohl also made clear that Germany had a duty to take part in a pan-European policy to dispel the distrust it had earned from its history and economic power.

CAMERA PRESS

A fox took advantage of ice on the ornamental lake in the grounds of Buckingham Palace to reach the Queen's flamingos

Fox kills the Queen's flamingos

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BUCKINGHAM PALACE was reeling last night from its worst security breach since Michael Fagan sat on the Queen's bed and asked for a cigarette. A fox has penetrated the garden and killed the royal flamingos.

Stunned palace officials told yesterday how police had discovered the mutilated bodies of six birds close to the ornamental pond that had been their home since 1959, when they were presented to the Queen by London Zoo.

The only remaining bird, which appeared to have survived the attack, died of shock. The Queen has been told.

Police, helped by Royal Household officials and expert gardeners, have mounted a massive operation to catch the intruder. Traps have been laid in the 40-acre grounds, where the flamingos have long been a favourite of garden party guests.

Last night, the palace said fresh footprints believed to belong to the murderer had been found, but no arrest had been made. The attack is thought to have happened last Friday during a particularly cold snap when the pond was frozen, so denying the birds the natural protection of water.

The palace, always reluctant to discuss security, would not say how the fox had entered a garden that is surrounded by a high brick wall topped with barbed wire.

"We are taking countermeasures," a spokeswoman said darkly, admitting that the area, despite the installation of many extra security devices since the Fagan incident, was still not fox-proof.

"The birds were clearly happy here, and had a very good diet; we fed them twice a day with Dutch cockles and shrimps to keep them pink," the spokeswoman added.

"We used to send them to London Zoo in winter to keep warm, but the travel proved too stressful for them and one died. So we built them a hut in the middle of the pond where they could keep warm."

News of the massacre did not surprise flamingo experts last night. Simon Tonge, senior curator of London Zoo, said: "Foxes do kill exotic birds with monotonous regularity. Central London is full of urban foxes, who normally live out of dustbins and in ordinary people's back gardens. But when the weather gets really cold they become desperate, daring, and no respecters of royalty."

Mr Tonge cast doubt on a fox's ability to scale a 12ft-high brick wall, and suggested that the culprit had probably slipped unseen through a tiny gap in one of several gates, normally locked and bolted, that give access to the palace garden.

Flamingos, predators permitting, enjoy remarkably long lives and although there is no Debrett-like family tree of the palace birds, they may well be survivors of the original colony. Zoologists know of a pair of Australian flamingos that have recently celebrated their fiftieth birthday, and the oldest known member of the species reached 60.

The palace said last night that it would now have to think carefully about replacing the birds.

"We certainly won't even consider it until we've caught the fox," the spokeswoman added.

Flamingos: fed on shellfish and shrimps

Outcry at Hanson closures

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

HANSON yesterday said it was cutting 2,300 high-street jobs at Powerhouse, the electrical retailers, and closing 195 stores.

The industrial conglomerate chaired by Lord Hanson, which this week announced plans to split its operations into four new companies, started widespread protests over the closure programme which is being finalised.

Yarrow, the warship builders on the Clyde announced [illegible]00 job losses and warned that there would be further job cuts unless the Government places orders with the yard for Royal Navy frigates.

Powerhouse doubts, p25
Yarrow cuts, p26

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IRA is blamed for AK47 attack on policeman's home

BY NICHOLAS WATTS, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA was believed to have been responsible for an attack on the home of an off-duty police officer in which 57 shots were fired yesterday. The Northern Ireland Office said they were unaware of any motive for the shooting near Moy, Co Tyrone, but the weapon used has been identified as an AK47 assault rifle and detectives believe the Provisionals were involved.

The part-time RUC reservist and his wife, who were in bed at the time, escaped unhurt as armour piercing bullets ripped through walls and windows. No organisation claimed responsibility for the shooting. The RUC said 57 shots were fired, but officially refused to comment on who was thought to be responsible.

However, a senior security source said last night: "At this stage we believe it was the IRA. It was an AK47 and that is their type of weapon. One gun was used." This is the first time the IRA has been accused by police of shooting at one of their officers since the IRA ceasefire 17 months ago.

Dr Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, said the attack was a "flagrant breach of the ceasefire, savage in its ferocity and murderous in its intent". He added that because of his concern for the consequences to the ceasefire, he had called on Sir John Wheeler, the Northern Ireland Office Security Minister, to take whatever urgent measures were necessary.

"This is not an isolated incident. There must be a full forensic investigation of the ammunition used in this and other incidents."

Dr Paisley said the officer had been attacked before by the IRA and as a result certain security precautions were taken, like the fitting of bullet-proof windows.

"The house was attacked by a very heavy calibre rifle which smashed all the bullet-proof windows and which actually cut and drove through the tiles of the roof of the house, and completely destroyed his car."

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said: "Over the last few months there have been an increasing number of violent incidents. There is an absence of a commitment to peaceful means and that does not augur well for the future."

As Unionist MPs called on Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, to condemn the attack, Sir John Wheeler said the shooting underscored the need for all paramilitary organisations to disarm. He said:

Continued on page 2, col 4

Simon Jenkins, page 20
Leading article, page 21

INSIDE

Simon Jenkins on how the Peace Process endangers the process of peace
Page 20

Libby Purves on a new *Britannia*, in **Weekend**

Richard Morrison on the transatlantic showbiz war
Page 17

Saudi prince in Savoy sale talks

The billionaire Saudi prince who bailed out Euro Disney two years ago has added the Savoy to his growing shopping list. Prince al-Waleed, who is emerging as one of the world's most dynamic investors, is casting the slide rule over the Savoy group, which includes Claridge's, the Berkeley and the Savoy itself. His advisers say talks are at an early stage..............Page 25

Ashdown agrees to 24-hour bodyguard after car arson

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND ADRIAN LEE

PADDY ASHDOWN last night agreed to round-the-clock bodyguards at his constituency home in Somerset after his car was destroyed by a petrol bomb early yesterday.

Mr Ashdown's Vauxhall Senator erupted in flames at 4am outside his thatched cottage in the village of Norton sub Hamdon near Yeovil. It was parked in a nearby garage which was badly damaged.

Detectives investigating the arson attack, only two months after Mr Ashdown was confronted by a knifeman, said that the Liberal Democrat leader had received anonymous threats. A brick was thrown through his car window several weeks ago.

The spate of threats came after Mr Ashdown's investigation into racist attacks on three Indian restaurants in Yeovil. Only weeks before the knife incident Mr Ashdown founded the Partnership Against Racial Harassment.

The police took the threats, by telephone and letter, so seriously that surveillance equipment was installed in the MP's garden. It was later removed.

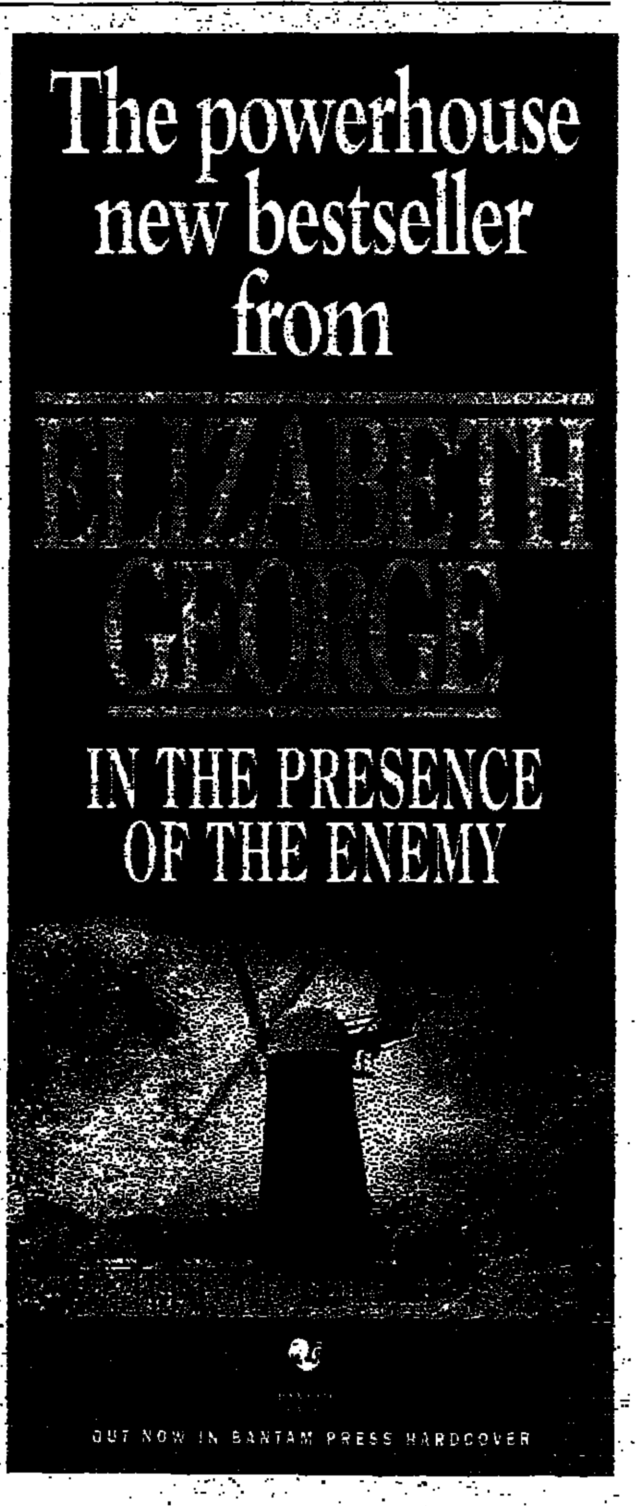
Mr Ashdown, 54, a former Marine commando who served with the Special Boat Squadron in the Far East, and his wife Jane were asleep in their house when their car was firebombed. "Obviously we were shaken. But now I am determined to get on with my job," he told reporters outside his home.

The Liberal Democrat leader, who has resisted the idea of police cover in the past, has bowed to the inevitable because of fears over the security of his wife who spends most of the week in the constituency.

An Ashdown aide said last night: "We will have to do something. We cannot ignore the police advice. As the leader of a party he has always been offered personal security. He has never wanted it because of the loss of privacy." A discreet police presence was expected to be in place within days before permanent bodyguard arrangements were finalised.

Mr Ashdown was playing down the incident. "I did not very much enjoy being woken at 4am, thank you. I am all right and my wife is in good order. The matter is now under criminal investigation."

Police said they were hunting two men seen acting suspiciously near the Ashdown cottage. They were spotted by officers on a routine patrol a few hours before the H registration car was destroyed. The Senator was Mr Ashdown's personal car. He has a government issue Rover for official duties.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CROSSWORD.................. 24
COURT & SOCIAL.......... 22
LETTERS........................21
OBITUARIES.................. 23
SIMON JENKINS........... 20
BUSINESS NEWS.......25-28
WEEKEND MONEY..29-39
SPORT.........................42-48
GARDENING: WEEKEND5
BOOKS: WEEKEND......6, 7
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US reluctant to take public stance on proposal

Clinton 'leans' on Adams to reconsider elections

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration privately urged Gerry Adams to reconsider his opposition to Britain's plan for elections in Northern Ireland when the Sinn Fein leader visited the White House on Thursday.

Publicly the Administration has adopted a position of strict neutrality towards the controversial British plan but a senior White House source contradicted that stance yesterday. Asked whether Mr Clinton and Tony Lake, the President's national security adviser, had leant on Mr Adams during their meeting on Thursday, he said that was a "fair conclusion".

Before that meeting the White House had been embarrassed by reports suggesting the Administration would encourage Mr Adams to accept the British plan, and went to considerable lengths to counter that idea.

Mr Adams's meeting with Mr Lake was upgraded into a two-hour lunch. Mr Lake and Nancy Soderberg, the White House Irish affairs expert, took the rare step of escorting Mr Adams to meet reporters outside the West Wing in a gesture designed to reinforce the impression that there had been no pressure.

That evening British and Irish reporters were given a briefing to reinforce the assertion that the administration had neither endorsed the British plan nor encouraged Mr Adams to accept it, and that the American role was simply to listen, encourage and offer suggestions that might advance the peace process.

Mr Adams insisted that "this wasn't a meeting about pressure" and the official White House statement did not mention "elections". It said merely that "other ideas" contained in Senator Mitchell's report last week "should be urgently discussed in the political track of the twin-track process".

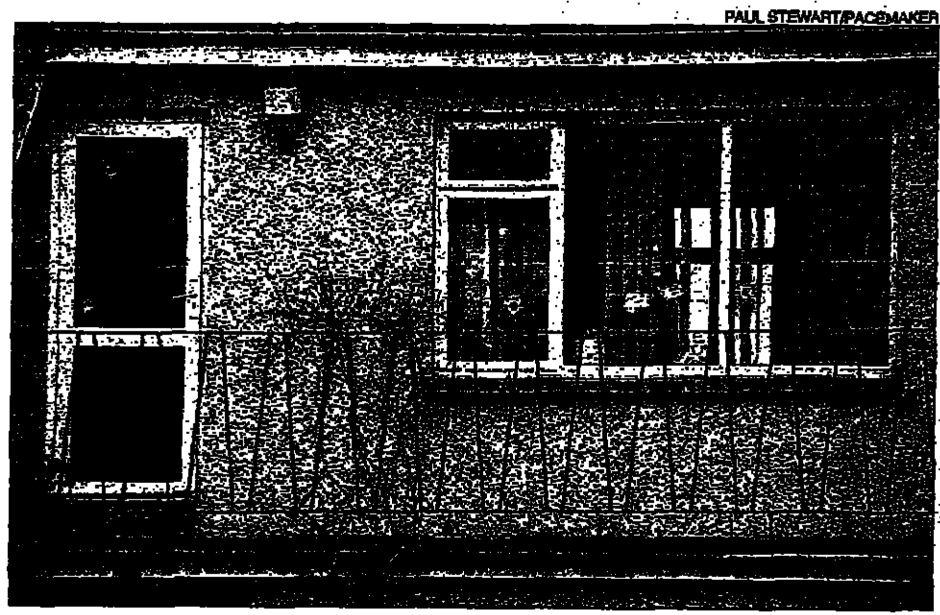
The issue of elections has divided the British and Irish governments and the Administration is understandably loath to take any public stance that might alienate one side or the other and impair its hard-won reputation for impartiality.

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, met Mr Lake on Monday night and Tuesday to argue that elections should be viewed as a "door not a hurdle" to all-party peace talks, and were the only way the unionists could be persuaded to participate short of the IRA beginning to decommission its arsenal.

Mr Adams is adamantly opposed to elections as a precondition for all-party talks and told Irish-American congressmen this week that John Major was merely erecting new barriers to peace.

Simon Jenkins, page 20
Leading article, page 21

PAUL STEWART/PACEMAKER



The policeman's home in Moy, Co Tyrone with bullet holes in the walls and windows

IRA blamed for gun attack

Continued from page 1

"Everyone in Northern Ireland will now be watching and waiting to see and hear what excuses are made for this wicked attack which robs them of confidence in building the peace process.

"They will expect all those genuinely committed to democratic methods to condemn this attack without reservation. Once again it reminds us all of the need to remove all illegal arms from Northern Ireland," Sir John said.

The Government was careful last night not to link any group with the shooting.

Mitchel McLaughlin, the Sinn Fein chairman, said he was disturbed by the shooting, but he refused to condemn it. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, he said: "I think the timing was very curious whatever intention people had in carrying out that incident. We must hope that it was an isolated one." Asked on Radio 4's *PM* whether he would condemn the shooting, Mr McLaughlin said: "No. I think those who have been conditioned to knee-jerks in these situations haven't really made a contribution to making sure they don't happen again." The shooting came as the peace process took an important step forward when Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionists took part in the World Economic Forum. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary who was in Davos, said: "I think it is a very good thing that common cause should be made explaining what a goood place Northern Ireland is for investment."

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionists' leader, took part in a round-table discussion with Mitchel McLaughlin, the national chairman of Sinn Fein, yesterday. It was the first time that senior officials of the two parties had shared a public platform. The meeting, on business opportunities in Northern Ireland, took place at the World Economic Summit in Davos, Switzerland.

☐ The funeral of Gino Gallagher, the reputed leader of the Irish National Liberation Army who was shot dead earlier in the week, passed off peacefully in Belfast yesterday. The RUC allowed the funeral to take place after the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the political wing of the INLA, agreed not to mount a paramilitary display. Mourners clashed with the RUC on Thursday when a guard of honour wearing masks and sunglasses tried to accompany Gallagher's coffin.

Simon Jenkins, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Whiskey down drain shows the Americans are serious

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

ANY doubts that Irish politics spans the globe were dispelled this week when the Mayor of San Francisco poured a bottle of fine Ulster whiskey down a drain to protest against allegedly anti-Catholic hiring practices at the distillery.

Old Bushmills Irish Whiskey comes from the village of Bushmills in Co Antrim. In California the company is being embarrassed by claims from Irish Americans that the only Catholics it has employed in recent years are a PR executive and part-time summer tour guides.

Mayor Willie Brown is the first black person to hold the city's top job, and was a victim of segregation during his Texan youth. A spokesman said he "wants to send a statement to the world that, at least as Mayor of San Francisco, he wants justice for all throughout the world, including for Catholics in Ireland."

The Mayor poured the whiskey down the drain in front of an Italian bar at a press conference. Next week a public hearing is to be held and a vote taken on a resolution to require San Francisco's bars to boycott Bushmills whiskey. Thanks to America's second-largest Irish Catholic community after Boston, the resolution is "almost certain to be passed unless Bushmills drags a busload of Protestants to City Hall", says Walter Hinkel, a local columnist who says he is of Irish origin. "Fortunately, whiskey drinkers have plenty of brands to choose from. If you're drinking Bushmills, it's like driving a Volkswagen during the Second World War."

The distillery says that 21 per cent of its workforce is Catholic, and is expected to send representatives to next week's hearing. They are likely to receive a rowdy but good-natured welcome. Nigel Heneghan, spokesman for the Irish Distillers Group, the parent company, said: "The company adopts a completely fair employment policy."

In North Antrim at the last election, about 33,600 people voted for Unionist parties and 8,400 for nationalists.

Labour MP bids for New Statesman

Geoffrey Robinson, the millionaire Labour MP for Coventry North West, is to become the new owner of the leftwing magazine *The New Statesman*, which was put into administration last month. Mr Robinson is understood to have offered £500,000 to purchase the title, with the promise of a further £250,000 to help to clear debts.

The weekly title, once the pre-eminent voice of the Left, was placed in administration last month after Philip Jeffrey withdrew day-to-day backing. Mr Robinson's offer has been provisionally accepted but because the company is in receivership the offer has to be approved by the courts.

Low-level flights call

The families of the victims of the Chinook helicopter accident yesterday called for an end to the Ministry of Defence's use of passenger flights for low-level flying training. At the inquiry into the disaster in which 29 people, mostly anti-terrorism experts, died, the families' solicitor said they had been distressed to learn that their loved ones had been placed at some risk by the flight being used for the purpose.

Gold smuggler jailed

A former constable who recruited his policewoman daughter for a £20 million gold smuggling operation has been jailed for two years. Michael Gilmore, 53, paid Lucy, 25, a pittance in "expenses" to become a criminal, Knightsbridge Crown Court in London was told. Gilmore, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, had earlier admitted conspiracy to cheat by evading VAT due on the smuggled bullion.

Clergyman leaves wife

A senior Church of England clergyman has shocked the Church by announcing that he has left his wife and is living at a friend's house. The Rev David Ford, 58, a former chaplain to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, broke the news to regular members of the Ripon Cathedral congregation in a two-line letter. He made clear that he and his wife would be living apart for personal reasons.

Chemical firm fined

A chemical company was fined £150,000 with £142,000 costs yesterday after a gas cloud escaped from a factory and caused a massive blaze. Two hundred firefighters tackled the inferno that engulfed Associated Octel's plant in Ellesmere Port on the night of February 1, 1994. Chester Crown Court was told that the company had pleaded guilty to two charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Brothers on parade

Three brothers will today lead the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. Lieutenant Colonel Sebastian Roberts, 42, with Cassian, 34, and Fabian, 23, will be the three commanding officers at the parade by the Irish Guards. It is a coincidence that the brothers are serving in appropriate ranks of the same regiment at a time when public duties fall to the Guards. Today is also Cassian's birthday.

Child sex guide shelved

A sex guide that includes how to find under-age prostitutes abroad is being withdrawn by its British publisher. *Sex Havens*, a £60 book providing information about foreign bordellos, strip shows and bars, has been available from Scope International of Havering, Hampshire, since 1993. The company said that although it still had copies, the book had been withdrawn.

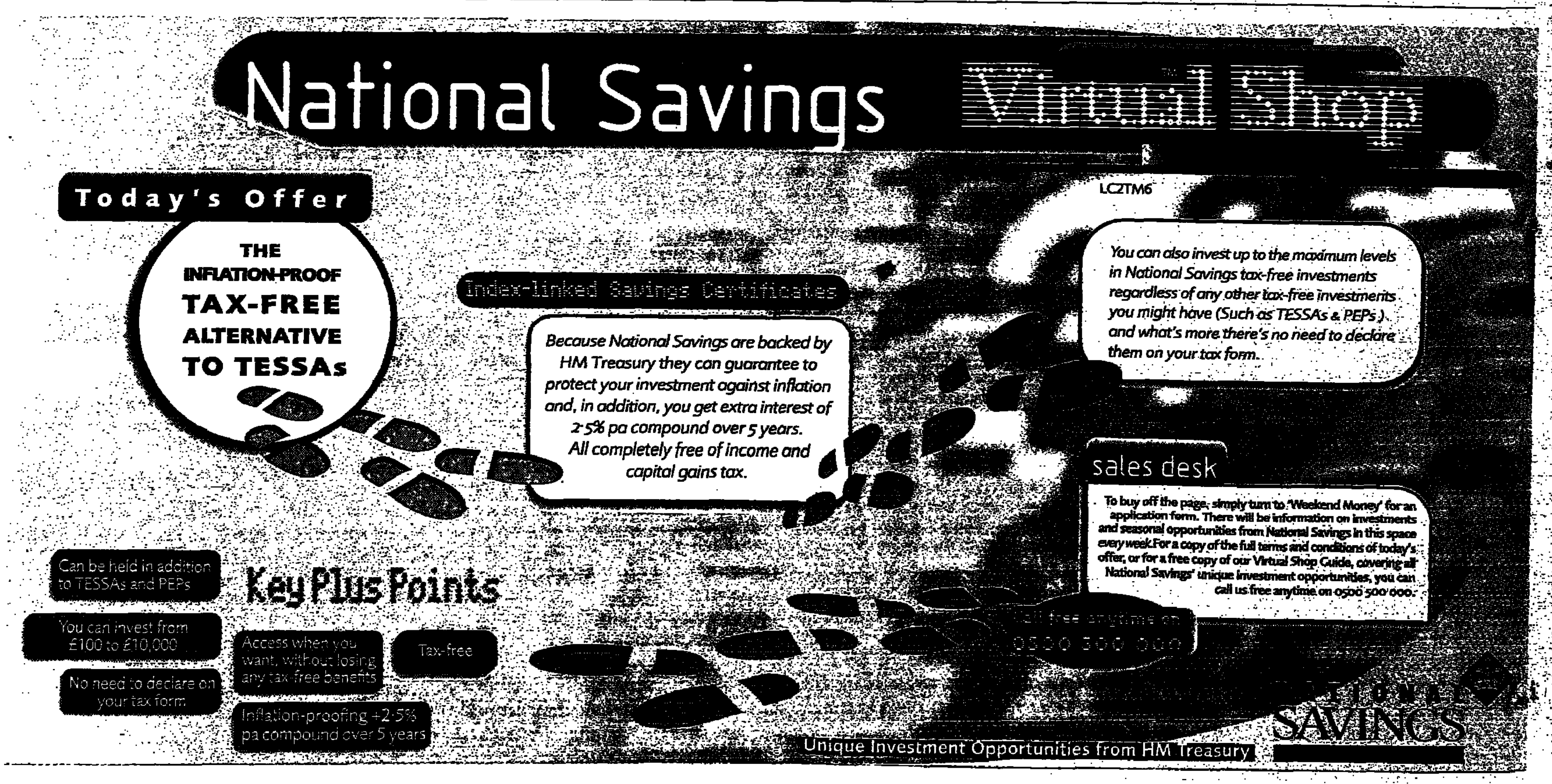
Tourist curbs, page 10

Professor appointed

Quentin Skinner, 55, Professor of Political Science at Cambridge University since 1978, is to be the next Regius Professor of Modern History at the university. He succeeds Professor Patrick Collinson, who is to retire on September 30. Professor Skinner's *The Foundations of Modern Political Thought* (1978) has been named as one of the 100 most influential books of the past 50 years.

Vauxhall issue recall

About 32,000 Vauxhall Frontera four-wheel drive vehicles are being recalled because of exhaust pipe problems. Vauxhall said an isolated case of exhaust pipe fatigue had been identified in a Frontera and that models produced before January 1995 were being recalled to have protective shields fitted to the tailpipes. The vehicles will also be inspected for any possible faults in the front brake hose.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Judge allows woman the right to influence life of severely disabled son

Over-protective mother wins fight against jail threat

By Emma Wilkins

A MOTHER who was accused of being over-protective towards her severely disabled son won the right yesterday to influence his life. Marjorie Vickers, 54, appealed successfully against a High Court ruling that threatened her with prison if she interfered with her son's freedom to make his own decisions.

Her son Steven, 18, suffers from cerebral palsy, spastic quadriplegia and speech and learning difficulties. His application to prevent his mother's interference in his life was made by the Official Solicitor, last June, on his behalf.

Mrs Vickers, from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was supported in the appeal by her husband, Peter, 57. The couple adopted Steven when he was a baby and discovered he had cerebral palsy when he was one. "I am very pleased with the ruling," Mrs Vickers said outside the High Court. "Now I just want to get back home to my family."

Under the terms of the ruling made by Mr Justice Johnson last June, Mrs Vickers faced jail if she interfered with her son's choice to be a weekly boarder at a special school near the family home. At the original hearing, the court was told that Mrs Vickers was over-protective towards her son and sometimes kept him home from school, saying he was ill, when doctors said he was not. She also resented professional advice.

She would not allow him to develop socially and was happy for him to sit on a sofa without physical or intellectual stimulation, the court was told. Kirklees District Council, which became involved with the family when Steven was eight, recommended that he should attend the special school where he could experience companionship and be educated.

Mrs Vickers, who wanted to keep Steven at home, had tried to prevent him staying at the school and Steven was eventually taken into care two years ago. The care order was due to run out on his 18th birthday, so the legal action was started on his behalf.

Sir Stephen Brown, president of the family division of the High Court, sitting with two other appeal judges, said the family could not possibly benefit from action by the court. The threat of an injuction would only put strain on the family and risk destroying the home that Steven loved, he said. Granting the appeal, Sir Stephen said Mrs Vickers now accepted that her son was benefiting from attending the special school.

The prospect of Steven enforcing an injunction against his mother and her ending up in jail was appalling, Sir Stephen said. It was doubtful whether Steven understood the concept of prison, let alone an injunction, he added.

"I have considered this matter with great care and sympathy because the motives of everyone involved are of the highest — they are all devoted to achieving the best for Steven," he said. "No one doubts that the love that the parents have for this boy and that they wish to make his life better, but the pressures have been dreadful.

"The mother has found it difficult to surrender the care of Stephen to others. There was a period where she frustrated the attendance of Stephen at a special school. Nobody has ever criticised the devotion of the parents or suggested that there is any question of ill treatment or neglect. This is a case where the devotion of a mother has been so intense that it has not been possible to look after Stephen's development in a way that is appropriate, by him going to this school."

ANDRE CAMARA

Marjorie Vickers wanted to keep her son at home instead of sending him to school

Sir Stephen said Parliament might like to clarify the legal rights of people who are severely physically disabled but are not mentally impaired. Despite his disabilities, including the ability to speak only a few words, Stephen is mentally capable, according to the law.

The ruling to allow the appeal and discharge the injunction, was supported by Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Morritt. After the ruling Stephen Switalski, the family solicitor, said: "It was an extremely sensitive, moving judgment and everyone is delighted and relieved."

Leading article, page 21

Hard sell takes fringe theatre into West End

By Robin Young

A LITTLE-KNOWN fringe theatre company made its debut in the West End last night thanks to its members' success in making money while "resting".

Counterpoint's production of *The Long and the Short and the Tall* by Willis Hall was transferred at short notice to the Albery Theatre in the West End after only three performances in a converted church in Brixton, south London.

Counterpoint, formed in 1994 by three graduates of the Webber Douglas Drama School, funds itself from the success of a telesales company which its members established to employ out-of-work actors.

Ian Francis, Counterpoint's commercial director, said yesterday: "We realised we needed to do something more profitable than bike deliveries or working behind bars while resting, so we formed our own telesales company, Professional Communicators. We are now making £100,000 a year."

Mr Francis added: "Actors are much more persuasive and intelligent than the usual double-glazing salesman. We have two contracts with conference organisers and we do a lot of telephone canvassing. Our results are often three times better than customers have had before, so they are delighted."

When producer Bill Kenwright, prompted by a review of Counterpoint's previous production in *The Times*, wanted to transfer *The Long and the Short and the Tall* at short notice, the move was possible, Mr Francis said, "because when we say we have the money to do something, people will know it is there".

Professional Communicators now employs 16 resting actors, while Counterpoint's founders, Simon Lenagan, Adam Maggido and Phil Pickard are all in the cast of *The Long and the Short and the Tall* with Mark Arden and Burt Kwouk, established actors the company could only attract and pay because of Professional Communicators' profits.

Tony Doherty of the Brixton Shaw Theatre, formerly St Matthew's Parish Church, said: "Counterpoint were only here for three performances instead of four weeks but we know we will be compensated. The move makes sense for Bill Kenwright, who had a theatre dark. This was a well set-up production that could be moved quickly."

More than 5,000 tickets have been sold for *The Long and the Short and the Tall* at the Albery, where it will have a 4½-week run. The play was first staged in 1959. Its author went on to collaborate with Keith Waterhouse on many projects.

Yard officer tells of infiltrating drugs operation

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

A SCOTLAND YARD officer who helped to foil a huge drugs operation has described how he posed for nine months as a drugs smuggler.

The officer was involved in Operation Dash, aimed at a criminal "entrepreneur", Bobby Mills, who was eventually jailed for 11½ years for a plot to smuggle cannabis worth £18 million.

It was the first co-ordinated operation involving police, Customs and Excise, the Royal Navy, and specialist troops. Mills, a former bookmaker, had been sentenced to ten years in 1981 for taking part in a cannabis ring.

Using the name "Michael", the police officer infiltrated a gang which planned to use a merchant boat to import cannabis from Morocco. The *Poseidon* was to rendezvous in the Atlantic in the summer of 1993 with a smaller vessel, the *Delvan*. The drugs would be distributed in England in bogus fish vans.

The detective sergeant said: "I flew to Ireland and we went 600 miles out into the North Atlantic to meet the main ship. We transferred on board six tonnes of cannabis. We were on a small fishing boat hitting against the Atlantic swells and we were also hitting against the other ship which was five times as big as ours."

He said: "The crew of the main ship were casting blocks of cannabis weighing 50lb — they were throwing them from their decks to ours. We had punctures on the deck surface and the engine room started to flood."

The policeman watched as "they kept piling stuff on the deck and we were trying to stack it up but after a while we had so much deck damage we decided that we weren't going to take any more".

The cannabis was offloaded in Littlehampton, West Sussex. "Michael" said: "As we were leaving we could hear the arrest-attack team going in — the armed police scenario and everything else. The villains were all taken on the quay."

The policeman's orders were to ring Mills once the drugs were landed. Mills was in a west London restaurant with his girlfriend when the call for payment came through. The criminal, unaware he had been trapped, said he would pay within 36 hours. Police arrested him as he finished his meal.

The *Poseidon* was boarded and captured after a chase by three Royal Navy ships carrying Special Boat Service teams. They were dropped on the ship by helicopter.

The undercover officer was taken to a safe place after the operation. Afterwards, he had found it very difficult to get back to reality.

"Michael" told his story in an internal Yard magazine *The Metropolitan Journal*, which discloses that the volunteer undercover officers worked on 384 operations last year which led to 474 arrests.

Wildfowler shoots pet goose by mistake

By Peter Foster

A WILDFOWLER was trying to placate an entire village yesterday after he mistakenly bagged Horace, its pet goose.

Steve Davies, 36, was out with his gun at dusk when he mistook Horace for a wild greylag flying behind a flock of ducks and shot it.

"But it was only the next day I realised it was Horace. I was mortified because I used to take my little girl along the river to feed him. If I had known it was him I would never have pulled the trigger," he said.

Mr Davies immediately went down to the village of Wark in Northumberland to apologise to local people, who had taken Horace, a Chinese cross, to their hearts after he used to rummage for food in children's pockets when they stopped to stroke him on nature walks.

One resident said: "Some people have told him never to darken the village again." Another said it was a disgrace that the much loved goose had been killed for sporting pleasure.

June Walker said: "He once disappeared for six weeks and the village was in turmoil because we thought he had flown away. Then one day he came sailing down the river with a dozen ducklings in a line behind him."

Mr Davies has decided to go on a Caribbean holiday while village tempers cool.

Signing kicks Dallaglio into the Midas touch

By Joe Joseph

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO, who today earns his fourth England rugby cap, yesterday signed up with the same agents who turned Anthea Turner from a £50,000-a-year television face to a household name.

From now on the 23-year-old Wasps captain and flanker, whose torso can already be imagined wrapped in Pringle cashmere and whose jawbone is made for an aftershave commercial, will be masterminded by James Grant Management. The agency is run by Russ Lindsay and Miss Turner's husband, Peter Powell, the former disc jockey.

Dallaglio, who is studying at Kingston University, south London, for a degree in urban estate management, will join a client list that includes Philip Schofield, the television presenter Caron Keating, the Radio 1 DJ Mark Goodier, and Zoe Ball, who took over from Gaby Roslin on Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*.

Dallaglio: his earnings could reach £500,000

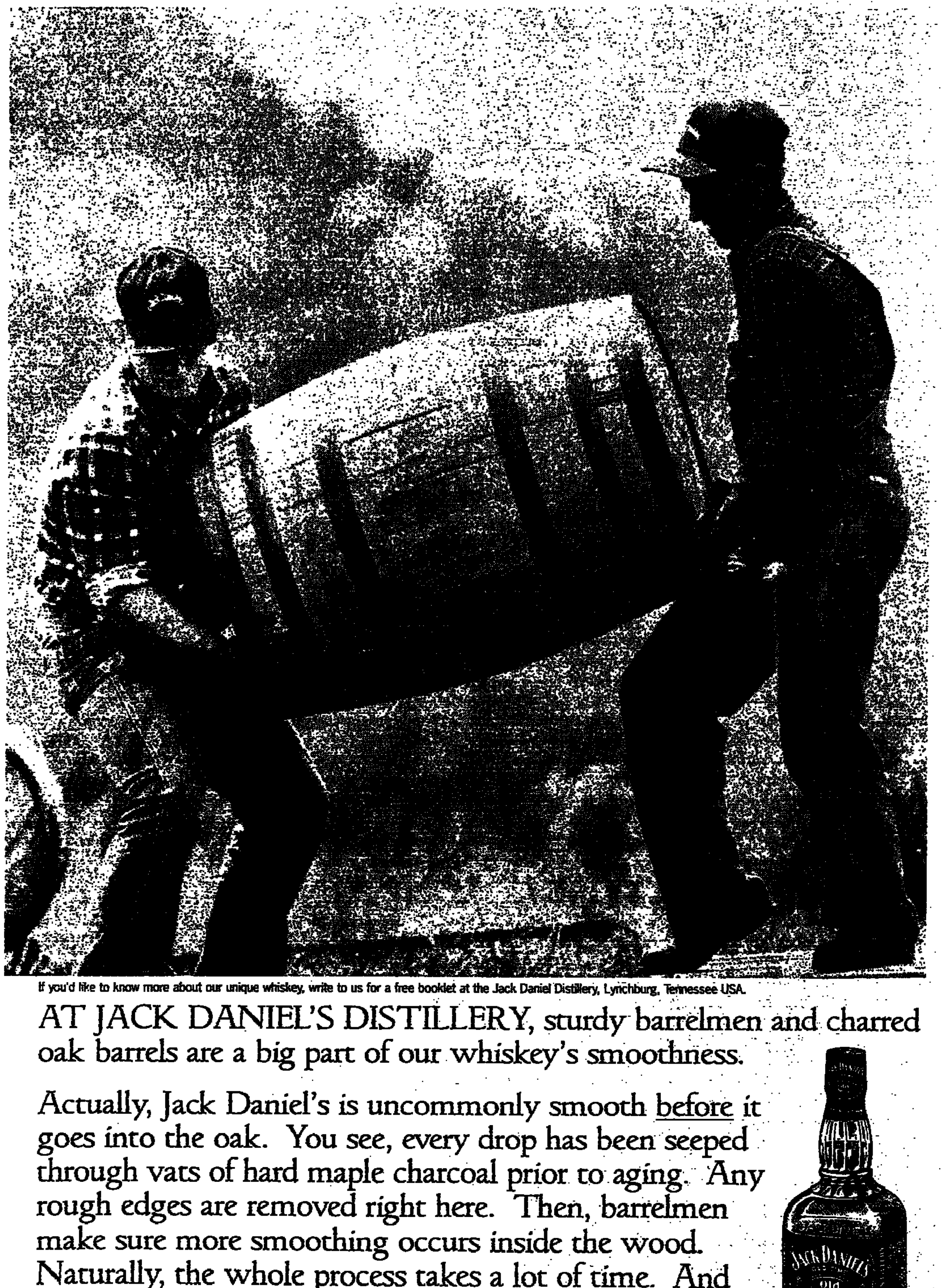
But why him? Because "Lawrence is a really intelligent guy," Mr Lindsay said. "He comes over as a very clean-cut, sensible young man. But more than that, he performs brilliantly on the field. He is a thinking rugby player."

He will soon be a jolly rich one, too. Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott are the big earners of rugby. But with the sport having turned professional, and with Carling and Guscott likely to bow out in a few years, Dallaglio stands to become rugby's biggest money-maker by the time of the 1999 Rugby World Cup.

If he continues to shine as brightly on the field as he does today, Dallaglio could be earning £500,000 a year by the turn of the century. His annual England salary of £34,000 could swell to about £100,000 in a couple of years, topped up by an equal salary from his club. Sponsorship deals — he already wears Nike boots — and television appearances should make up the rest.

"Lawrence is not money-grabbing in the slightest," Mr Lindsay said. "The last thing he is thinking is, 'How can I get another £100,000 out of a sponsor?' It's what we don't do for Lawrence that will be as important for him in the long run as what we do do. If you get too high-profile too quickly, you create antagonism in the team."

Five nations, pages 46-48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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

هكذا من الأجل

[illegible]

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Test of time

❝I collect my books and head off for my first lesson. I feel very nervous, yet I dimly recall this sensation: it's being a new boy, and it's not a sensation that, as a married 33-year-old with two sons, I expected to experience again . . .❞

What would it feel like to go back to school? David Mills, posing as a sixth-former, finds out — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Vice-chancellors back down from threat to impose levy as Shephard offers peace talks

Universities defer decision on £300 entrance charge

By David Charter, education correspondent

JAMES MORGAN

Vice-chancellors discussing their plans yesterday. They dismissed a further review into funding as laughable

VICE-CHANCELLORS stepped back from voting yesterday on proposals to charge university entrants £300 after an eleventh-hour offer of talks from Gillian Shephard.

The university chiefs left their threat of an entry fee for undergraduates in 1997 on the table ahead of a meeting with the Education and Employment Secretary on Tuesday.

Mrs Shephard's offer was made the evening before the vice-chancellors' emergency meeting in London yesterday when the 104 academics agreed the plan should be put to their governing bodies.

The national executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals is still recommending a fee be brought in if planned cuts in funding go ahead and this year's 37 per cent drop in capital funding at least partially restored. The vice-chancellors' main aim is to reform the funding system so that student loans can be paid back according to their income once they have graduated and are in employment.

It emerged yesterday that ministers are considering a major inquiry into the financing of universities. But the vice-chancellors are hoping for more immediate action which may come in the form of a Green Paper on higher education. Mrs Shephard's own year-long review of it is due to report soon.

If all Mrs Shephard has to offer is another review, she will further antagonise the universities. One leading vice-chancellor said yesterday: "We are not going to have any truck with a major study which kicks everything into touch until after the next election. The idea they want to start all over again is just laughable."

Professor Gareth Roberts, committee chairman and Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield, said after yesterday's meeting he would be seeking signs of compromise from Mrs Shephard. Professor Roberts said: "In the absence of a long-term solution all universities are forced to continue to explore all possible options including the registration levy."

He continued: "Our recommendation is that the levy really is a last resort. It would only be triggered if the Government cut us back yet again next November. We are seeking some agreement from the political parties that this huge expansion in higher education has just got to be paid for."

Yesterday's meeting was held up for an hour when 50 student protesters from the Campaign for Free Education burst in and demanded to air their views on how the education system should be publicly funded. However, the National Union of Students welcomed the move to postpone a decision on a levy.

Jim Murphy, union president, said: "We are furious that universities have been forced to make such threats because of savage government cuts but we cannot accept that students should provide the missing funds. The maximum student grant next year will be £1,710, so asking students to pay £300 for the right to study would be a considerable attack on their funds." Vice-chancellors leaving yesterday's meeting were generally relieved that a vote on fees was avoided. They fear it would have divided them and led to splits with students, parents and lecturers. Many agree fees are inevitable if the funding system is not reformed.

Clive Booth, Vice-Chancellor at Oxford Brookes University, said: "If the Government was unable to give us a proper funding system then I think some universities would have to break away and charge substantial top-up fees just to maintain the quality of what they do. I think that would be very sad because some people would not then be able to go the university of their choice."

The call for action came as the Liberal Democrats' plans for financing post-school education were leaked in the *Times Educational Supplement* yesterday. Don Foster, Liberal Democrat education spokesman, will call for long term loans so students can contribute to course fees. The loan would be repaid through the tax or national insurance system.

Vice-chancellors were also privately incensed by John Major's remarks on Tuesday that university funding had risen by 23 per cent in real terms over the past five years. In the same period, student numbers rose by 50 per cent to 1.5 million.

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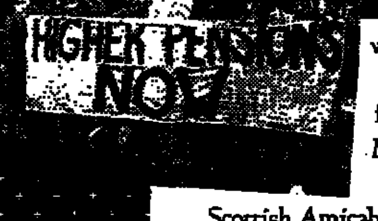


BY THE year 2025, around one third of the population will be past retirement age.

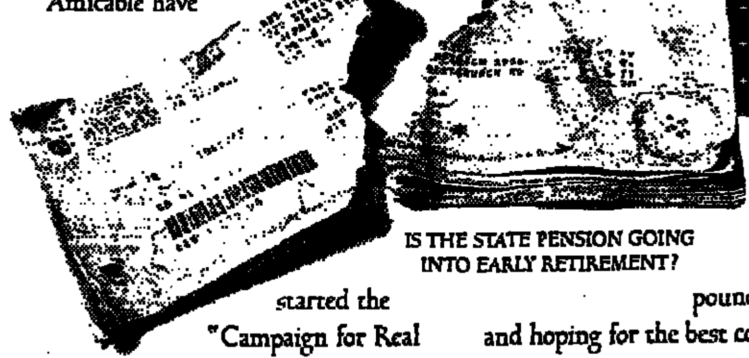
According to well informed sources, wage earners of the future would need to pay 80% taxes in order to keep them all fully superannuated.

So you don't need a degree in economics to work out that it's you who'll be providing for your old age, not the State.

Sooner or later you'll need some serious pension planning if you're to be kept in the style to which you've grown accustomed. To recognise how important this is, Scottish Amicable have started the "Campaign for Real Pensions" to help you plan for the future.

It's not just about salting away a few pounds each month and hoping for the best come retirement. It's about putting some serious thought into how much you will realistically need to live on.

There may be some painful questions, but it's only by asking them that you can be really confident of a decent nest egg. For instance, inflation has quadrupled prices since 1976.



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School's common room is in a pub

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland correspondent

A SCOTTISH school has established its sixth-form common room in a pub.

Pupils from Balfron High in Central region are popping into their local, the Pirn Inn, to relax, listen to music and watch television between lessons. The idea came from a member of the school board, a Tory councillor, after overcrowding at the school, a popular comprehensive, meant there was no space for a common room.

Jim Fleming, the school's rector, discussed the matter with parents before approaching the pub's owners. The common room will not be supervised but teachers are adamant that pupils will have no access to alcohol.

Pupils have to sign a pledge promising to abide by school rules, which forbid smoking and drinking, before they can use the room. Robert Cranston, the pub's landlord, whose daughter Rowan, 17, attends the school, said: "We're very strict about not serving under-age drinkers. There is no question of them sitting in the bar supping a pint."

Helen Liddell, Labour's Scottish spokeswoman on education, said she had some reservations about the scheme. "It seems somewhat bizarre that with all the concerns there are about drugs and alcohol that the school should choose to do this. I think most parents would be worried about their teenage children being in a licensed premises."

Sandy Kelso, depute rector at Balfron High, said he knew the people who ran the pub and believed his pupils were trustworthy.

Mother's home at risk over school fees

By John O'Leary
Education editor

A LEADING independent school is trying to make a single mother sell her home to pay her son's outstanding fees after the break-up of her marriage.

Irene Doherty, a restaurant manageress from Gatley, near Stockport, is being sued for £8,000 in unpaid school and legal fees accumulated since her son Julian was asked to leave Cheadle Hulme School, on the borders of Greater Manchester and Cheshire, four years ago.

A county court judge will decide next month whether Mrs Doherty has to sell the three-bedroom house she has occupied for 19 years to meet a debt which she claims is her former husband's responsibility. If the action is successful, the family will have to leave the £90,000 house within 28 days.

Mrs Doherty's 15-year marriage to Nader Kohanzad, a stationery manufacturer in Oldham, was over when Julian entered the £3,500-a-year school. By the beginning of 1992 his fees were four terms in arrears and Julian, who is now 18, transferred to a comprehensive school.

Alan Godfrey, Cheadle Hulme's bursar, said the school had no choice but to pursue Mrs Doherty for the debt because she had enrolled her son. "We do not lightly kick someone out of their home but there comes a point when there is no other way to recover the money."

Mrs Doherty said: "Cheadle Hulme are more than prepared to make me and my family homeless. It looks like we are going to be forced onto the streets. We could end up in a hostel."

MI6 advice stops academic's book

By Robin Young

CAMBRIDGE University Press has refused to publish an anthropological study after receiving advice from MI6 that it could provoke terrorist attacks against its staff and university members in Greece.

Two senior members of the CUP's anthropological editorial board have resigned in protest at the decision, claiming that it represents unacceptable academic censorship.

Fields of Wheat, Hills of Blood is an ethnographic study of villages in northern Greece by Anastasia Karakasidou, a Greek-born writer. It contradicts the official Greek line that there is no Slavo-Macedonian minority there.

Dr Karakasidou received death and rape threats after publishing a similar study two years ago, claiming that a Slavonic language is spoken in the area and that people consider themselves Macedonian and not Greek. The issue is central to Greece's dispute with the neighbouring republic of Macedonia, part of the former Yugoslavia. CUP's governing body of senior university academics, the Press Syndicate, decided unanimously not to publish her new book after officials had requested a "terrorist threat assessment" from the British Embassy in Athens and from the CUP's chief salesman in Greece, Craig Walker.

The resulting memorandum prepared by Jessica Kuper, a CUP executive, spoke of a "moral imperative" not to publish, saying it was impossible to discount the embassy's warning that "publication might put at risk the lives of press staff in Athens, and of Cambridge University personnel in Greece".

The two anthropology editorial board members who have resigned are Professor Michael Herzfeld, of Harvard University, and Professor Stephen Gudeman, of the University of Minnesota. Professor Herzfeld said the decision to reject the book "represents an unacceptable restriction of academic freedom".

I'm over the moon, says rocket man celebrating lift-off

Half a minute puts Britain back into amateur space race

By Paul Wilkinson

STEVE BENNETT'S attempt to become the first amateur to put a rocket into space took a giant leap forward yesterday with the successful launch of Starchaser 2.

Mr Bennett had been working hard to make up the ground lost to rivals in Australia and America, after motor failure left the rocket smoking on the launchpad in an attempt three months ago. So he was relieved to see his craft, powered by a solid fuel derivative of weedkiller and sugar, soar into grey skies over Northumberland.

"It was difficult to keep a stiff upper lip as I counted down," he said afterwards. "I was very emotional. If I was to continue, this had to work. A lot of things were riding on that rocket, but it was absolutely brilliant. I could not have asked for it to go better."

There was a moment of drama as he halted the countdown only four seconds before ignition, saying that he could hear an aircraft overhead. Moments later, the count was on again and the slim, grey projectile was flying straight up, above the Army's firing ranges at Otterburn.

At 21ft, it was the largest home-made rocket in Europe. The purpose of the launch was to test propulsion systems, parachutes and computers.

Although it was travelling at 450mph, it seemed to move with a slow grace into the sky. Mr Bennett, 31, a laboratory technician for a toothpaste manufacturer near his home in Dukinfield, Manchester, said: "I was over the moon, if that's not too much of a cliché. Now I am on target to overhaul the opposition and be the first amateur into space within the next 12 months. It is the culmination of 15 months hard work by a lot of people."

The launch site was a concrete apron normally used by artillery firing over the 70,000 acres of the rolling windswept ranges in the Cheviot Hills. Unlike his last trial in a field in the Yorkshire Dales, where mission control had been the bottom of a dry-stone wall, this time he had the use of concrete bunker with steel shutters over the observation slits. Nearby a burger van, thoughtfully provided by his sponsors Tate & Lyle, sold hot coffee and bacon sandwiches to the chilled press corps and Army observers.

During its flight, the rocket was barely visibly against snow-covered hills, but its bright yellow flame and almost white trail of smoke marked its path almost 2,000ft into the sky.

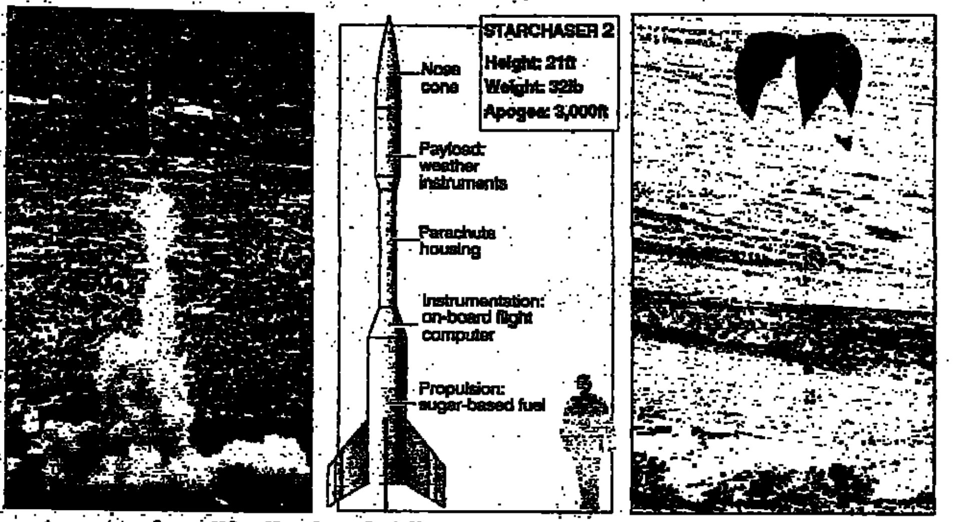
Momentarily it was lost in the cloud, but then it could be seen arcing over as the motors shut down and gravity exerted its pull. Starchaser separated into two parts, deploying parachutes. For a second there was consternation as the chute on the larger, first stage appeared not to open, but soon after, its fluorescent red and blue canopy filled and both stages dropped to earth within feet of each other half-a-mile away. In all, the flight had lasted just 30 seconds.

Adrienne, Mr Bennett's wife and most ardent supporter, was delighted "I am really pleased for him, Steve had been desperate for this to work today." She has allowed him to use their home as an assembly works, with components spread over the dining table and lounge floor.

Mr Bennett has been a rocketeer since his childhood when he saw *Thunderbirds* on television. He now plans to build Starchaser 3, almost double the size of the current rocket, for the attempt on outer space, technically 50 miles up. After two or three test firings, he expects to reach for the stars next year. But it will not be in Britain.

"Sadly there is nowhere here we can go that high and brng it back without dropping it on someone's head," he said. "I shall have to look for a desert somewhere."

Leading article, page 21


STARCHASER 2
Height: 21ft
Weight: 32lb
Apogee: 3,000ft
Nose cone
Payload: weather instruments
Parachute housing
Instrumentation: on-board flight computer
Propulsion: sugar-based fuel

A success from lift-off, left, to landing, right — how the Starchaser 2 worked in Northumberland yesterday. All that is left now is to lengthen the time in between

Steve Bennett runs for cover before take-off: components were assembled on his dining table

Reaching for stars rather than cash

By Nick Nuttall

YESTERDAY'S successful rocket launch still puts Steve Bennett a long way from the $10 million prize offered by an anonymous businessman for the first amateur to put two human beings into orbit.

But most enthusiasts say the prize is irrelevant: they are reaching for the stars rather than for cash.

The Tripoli Rocketry Association, formed in the 1960s by hobbyists from three American cities, has 4,000 members across the world, including Mr Bennett, who said yesterday that he believed he now led the pack in Europe.

The greatest recorded height for an amateur rocket is 38,000ft, achieved recently by Frank Kosdon, of Ventura, California.

Bruce Kelly, a spokesman for the association, was sparing with superlatives about Mr Bennett's achievement, describing it as pretty good.

Unlike the United States and Australia, rocketry in Britain had been held back by the Government and police because of fears of terrorism, he said. A sugar-based fuel like that used in Starchaser 2 was old-fashioned. "It is popular because it is cheap." Some enthusiasts now used ammonium perchlorate, the solid fuel used in the space shuttle.

Stabbed PC died 11 years later

By Richard Duce

A KNIFE wound inflicted on a police officer as he tackled an armed robber led to his death almost 11 years later, an inquest heard yesterday.

PC George Hammond survived the stabbing in 1985 after operations which needed transfusions of 300 pints of blood but he never fully recovered. He eventually died from a heart attack brought on by his injuries.

Dr Richard Shepherd, a pathologist, told Southwark Coroner's Court that PC Hammond had to have his right kidney removed and his left kidney never functioned properly again.

This had led to chronic heart problems culminating in a heart attack and kidney failure shortly before his death in King's College Hospital on December 13 last year. Dr Shepherd said all the problems could be attributed to the stabbing. PC Hammond's widow Angela, 54, told the court that her husband had continual nightmares about the incident. The former army athlete could no longer run and had difficulty in walking. He had to take massive doses of drugs every day.

His attacker, Christopher Oggleton, 17, a trainee chef who selected the murder weapon from a set of knives he had been given as part of a youth training scheme, was sentenced to nine years' youth custody at the Old Bailey.

The coroner, Sir Montague Levine, said he had no doubt the stomach wounds inflicted by the 10in knife, which he described as "more like a Gladiator's sword," had contributed to the former officer's death at the age of 58.

He recorded a verdict that "he died from complications which followed severe injuries he sustained whilst making an arrest on 23 January, 1985."

Don Ratcliffe, of the Police Federation, said after the inquest: "The coroner is restricted by the law but his verdict can be translated as unlawful killing by any other name."

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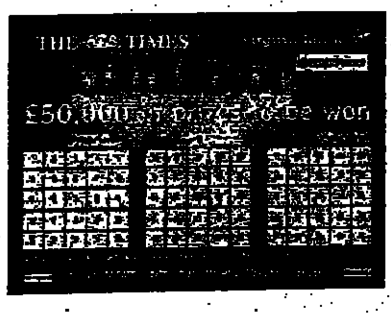

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All offers end 2nd April 1996. All products subject to availability. Electrical products may not be available in all shops. All prices are supply only; installation and assembly are available for an extra charge. *Buy Now Pay August 1996 is available on selected freestanding and built in cookers, subject to status, when you pay 5% deposit and sign a credit agreement with payments to be made by direct debit. Written quotations available on request from British Gas Retail, Freepost CV2466, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9BR. Typical Credit Example: Tricity SI221 electric cooker. Cash price £199.99 (after trade in of £100.00, including delivery but excluding assembly and installation). Deposit £10.00 and 24 monthly payments of £10.24. Total amount payable £255.76 APR 29.5%. †The claim for a refund or exchange must be made within 5 days after the 14 day trial. The trial starts from the day of delivery. British Gas Retail will collect the product at no charge but will neither pay for nor arrange disconnection. The product must be returned undamaged and complete to qualify. Full conditions available in store. **Ask in store for details.

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ELECT 3 PRICE FOR AX 1.0i ELATION 3 DOOR**	£7,079.00
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All Citroën AX models are also available with one year's free insurance for 17-75 year olds through Direct Line† In addition we're offering a free Vodafone mobile phone‡

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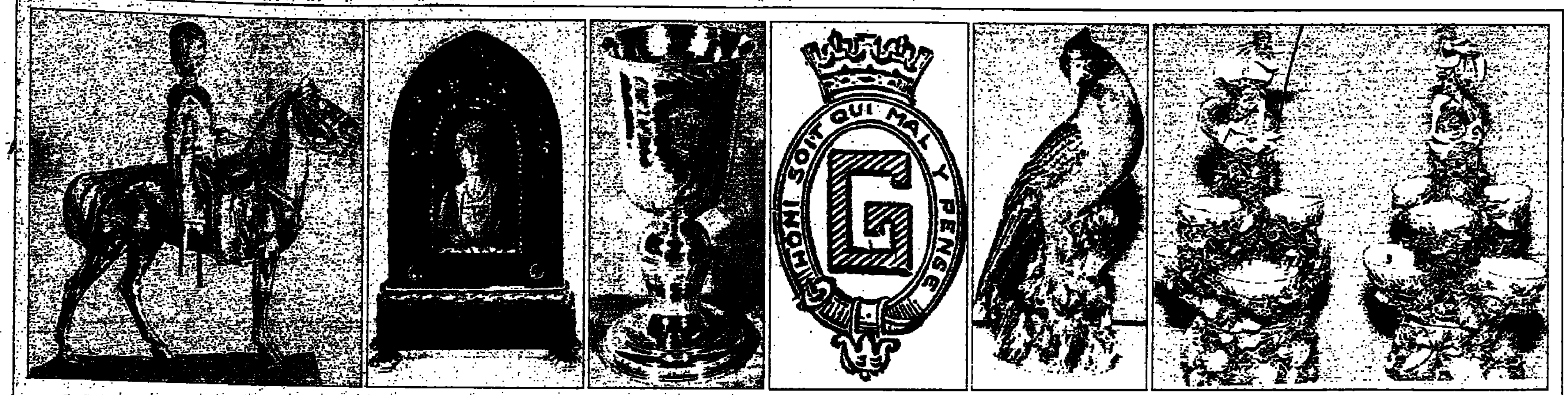

Stolen items include a silver model of an officer; a picture of Queen Mary in a Fabergé frame; a George II silver chalice; cutlery marked by this George III crest; Chinese figures of pheasants; and a pair of Derby glazed dishes

Kents offer reward for antiques stolen from their home

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will offer a "generous" reward

By Oliver August

THE Duke and Duchess of Kent are offering a "substantial" reward for the recovery of antiques stolen from their Oxfordshire home, police said yesterday.

The 22 stolen pieces, mostly silverware and porcelain, are thought to be worth £50,000. "These are items of great historical and sentimental value. Some of them have family connections. Some are beautiful in their own right," Nicholas Adamson, the Duke and Duchess's private secretary, said, adding that the couple were "upset, as anybody who's been burgled would be".

Among the stolen items is a three-coloured gold Fabergé photograph frame with inset jade stones holding a blurred picture of Queen Mary. The arched frame was made by the St Petersburg artisan Victor Aarne at the turn of the century.

Other stolen items include a George II silver chalice, a George III dessert knife and a rare pair of Derby glazed sweetmeat dishes.

A collection of six snuff boxes was taken, including a Swiss gold box from around 1840 with the letter "G" engraved below a royal crown and a Geneva box with an engraving marking the 1807-1814 French occupation of Geneva. The most colourful piece is a pair of Chinese export figures of pheasants on rockwork bases, the plumage in famille rose enamels from the Qianlong period (1736-95).

Thames Valley Police would not disclose the exact sum to be paid out but said the Duke and Duchess would be "generous".

Burglars broke into the couple's mansion in the hamlet of Crocker End through a window at about 5am on Monday and set off alarms. Police soon arrived but the burglars had escaped with the antiques. The Duke and Duchess were not there at the time.

Caroline Wakeford, of the Art Loss Register, which is co-operating with the police, said the antiques were probably abroad after having been sold to a handler.

Gas-cooled fridge marks victory for green lobby

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

ONE of Britain's leading fridge makers announced yesterday it was switching its entire production to ozone-friendly chemicals.

Elstar, which supplies pubs and clubs, is believed to be the first maker of commercial fridges in the world to switch to gas-cooled cabinets. It marks a victory in a long-running battle between some of the chemical giants and green groups.

ICI, which with Dupont, is the biggest maker of coolants for fridges, has ridiculed claims by environmentalists that such a fridge could be produced. In 1992 ICI described a fridge based on gases such as propane and isobutane as "pie in the sky" and added: "Can we all go back to the laboratory and spend the next ten years working on Greenpeace ideas to see if they can be made to work in practice?"

But the move by Elstar has vindicated Greenpeace. Yesterday John Gummer, the Environment Secretary and Lord Melchett, executive director of Greenpeace UK, joined the celebrations at Elstar's factory in Castle Donington in Leicestershire.

Mr Gummer said: "This sort of development is an example of the benefits that can be gained by seeking solutions which meet long-term economic, technical and environmental objectives — in a phrase, by developing sustainable technology."

Elstar's decision comes four years after the European Community agreed to ban chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), fridge coolants that have been damaging the ozone layer, under the Montreal Protocol.

Big chemical companies announced they had developed hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). But these gases also damage the ozone layer or are global-warming gases.

Hydrocarbon refrigeration, as used by Elstar, was developed in the 1930s but ignored. Greenpeace, alerted to the technology, backed an ailing East German fridge company to build ten prototype "Greenfreeze" fridges.

By 1994 many German fridge companies began offering a limited range of such fridges but British industry initially failed to grasp the idea.

A spokesman for ICI said that gas-cooled refrigerants were suitable only for sealed fridge systems and not for domestic fridges.

URGENT!

600 grans need to escape from poverty and disease

There are thousands of elderly people around the world, like Sadia pictured here, who need help. But in the last month alone we have heard of 600 who are in desperate need.

Many of these people are frail and destitute. Some are in urgent need of medical attention. Yet most have no families they can turn to for help. And if we don't find 600 sponsors for them – soon some of these grans could die.

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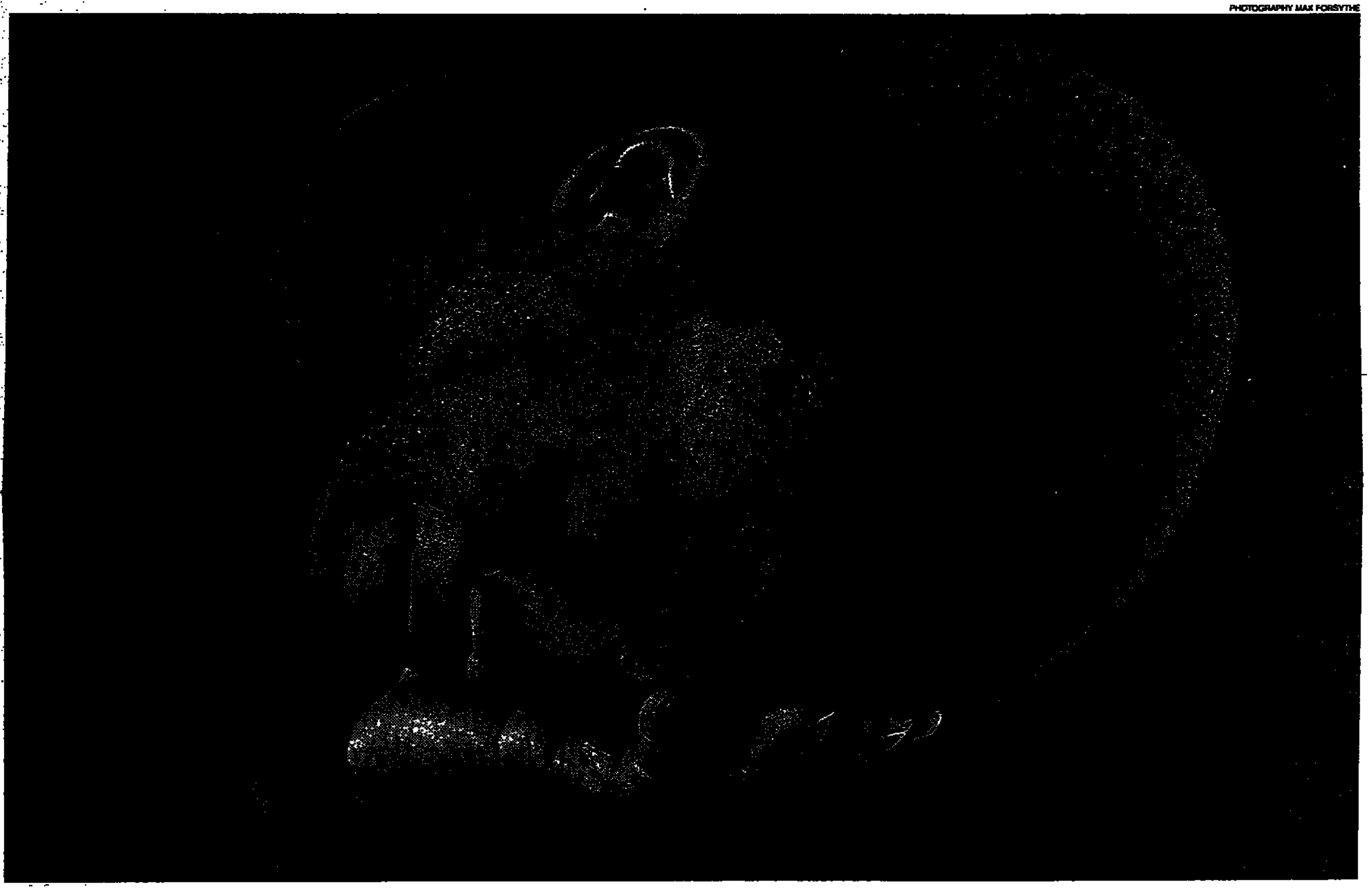

We'll go on listening even when you can't go on talking.

Every year at The Samaritans we receive over a million totally silent phone calls. For whatever reason, the callers can't begin to tell us what's troubling them.

Equally, callers who do start may be unable to go on – many hang up halfway through a conversation, or simply go quiet.

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Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you. The Samaritans

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Catholics seek to canonise English misfit who devoted himself to the sick

Lepers' aide may become first saint of Zimbabwe

By Russell Jenkins

A CAMPAIGN to canonise the son of a High Anglican parson martyred for his devotion to a leper colony in the African bush has gathered pace with the publication of the first book of his poetry.

Thousands of pilgrims make their way each year to an imposing black granite cross atop a 1,000ft rock to pay homage and pray for miracles in the name of John Bradburne, an Englishman who was shot dead 16 years ago in the Rhodesian civil war.

Bradburne, born in 1921 in Cumberland and variously a bearded misfit, minstrel, poet, Catholic convert and monk, is widely expected to become Zimbabwe's first saint. For the last ten years of his life he devoted himself to caring for lepers in the isolated Mutemwa settlement, 90 miles from Harare.

Since his death, friends of the "saintly vagabond" have claimed a host of miracles and strange happenings in his name. Pilgrims claim he has cured them of cancer and other illnesses. One follower has a video recording of the sunset above Mutemwa where the sun emerges in the shape of the Virgin Mary. Swarms of bees, a frequent occurrence in the area, are said to carry his healing spirit.

The Catholic Herald said last week: "Many people see him as the country's first saint and his claims are being pushed by a cult of followers in Britain and Zimbabwe." The John Bradburne Memorial Society is collating the miracle claims in its campaign for beatification — the first step to canonisation.

The welfare charity, set up in 1987 to raise funds for the remaining lepers of Mutemwa, published a book of his poems called *Songs of the Vagabond*. Bradburne wrote six or seven poems each day, with his work forming a poetic "diary" of his life.

Professor David Crystal, the book's editor, said it represented only a sample of Bradburne's poetic outpourings. His work ranges from doggerel to sonnets and meandering 10,000-line, epic verse.

Professor Crystal said: "Theological insight and striking nature descriptions sit alongside the realities of poverty and disease. Everything is expressed in language which is remarkable for its vivid images and joyous word play. Reading John Bradburne is a an uplifting experience."

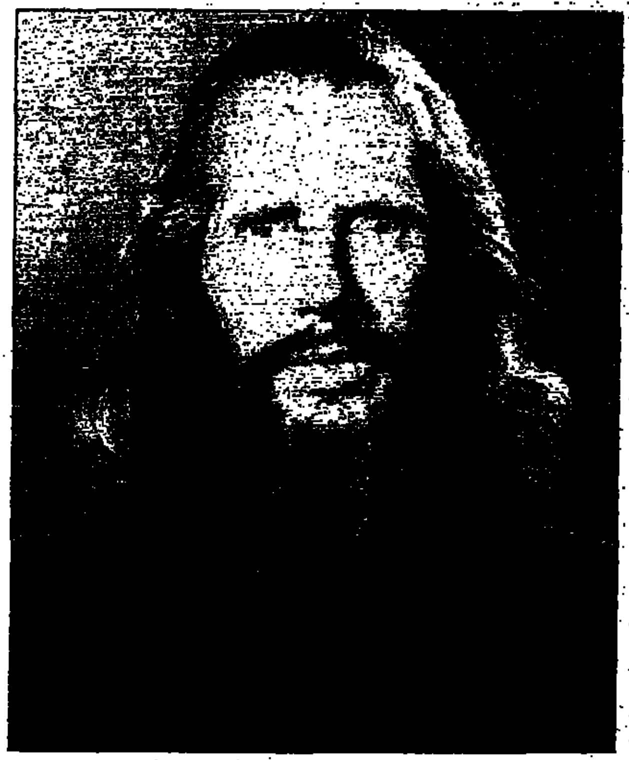
Bradburne was baptised an Anglican but converted to the Catholic faith in 1947. An early brush with death proved a seminal experience. He was lost for some weeks in the jungle while serving as a Gurkha officer in the Far East during the Second World War. He became a drifter, holding down a series of jobs from school master, junior sacristan at Westminster Cathedral and minstrel to "self-confessed vagabond". He tried unsuccessfully to become a monk.

At the age of 40, he wrote to his friend John Dove, a fellow Gurkha officer working in Rhodesia as a Jesuit priest, asking if there was a cave where he could live a life of prayer. He spent eight years in Salisbury working for the Jesuit mission.

His followers say it was only in 1969 that he discovered his real purpose in life. On a visit to the remote region of Mtoko he came across a colony of lepers, whose squalid living conditions so horrified him that he decided to stay.

For ten years Bradburne engaged in a running battle with the mission authorities to feed and clothe the lepers. His biography, *Strange Vagabond of God*, says he "bathed them, fed them and buried them". In 1973 he fell out with the Rhodesian Leprosy Association for being troublesome, was sacked as colony warden and went to live in a tin hut. From here he continued to care for his "flock."

When civil war broke out Bradburne refused to heed government warnings to leave the country. One night in 1979, Bradburne, then 58, was seized by a group of "bandits."



John Bradburne cared for lepers in Africa for ten years before he was shot dead by guerrillas in 1979

He was taken into the bush and subjected to a mock trial. The next day Patriotic Front guerrillas shot him in the back as he knelt in prayer. Nicholas Coote, assistant general secretary of the Bishops' Conference, said Bradburne appeared to be an ideal prospect for beatification. It falls to the church authorities in Zimbabwe to press his case.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 3

Looking after the earth helps divine purpose

Julian Jacobs

THE Jewish New Year for Trees, which falls on Monday, occurs with the first signs of spring. In modern Israel this semi-festival is associated with agricultural development of the country and afforestation. Both there and in the Diaspora children will plant saplings on that day.

Tree-planting is also celebrated in this country. In many cultures trees are regarded as a symbol of life and vitality, and their protection is a mark of our relationship with nature.

The affinity man feels with nature has been taken by religious thinkers to point to the existence of a creator. Even a leaf has a beauty and symmetry that suggests that it could not have come into being by chance. The biblical writers had no doubt that the order apparent in the universe is evidence of the workings of an omnipotent God.

In recent years the danger of damage to the environment has seeped into our consciousness. We now speak about environmental ethics because we have been made aware of the speed with which we are depleting the world's natural resources and polluting the earth. We realise that those resources are not inexhaustible and that we have to plan for what is called sustainable growth.

Concern for the protection of the environment is found in the opening chapters of the Bible. Genesis describes how God brought order into chaos and how all created things were formed according to their kind. It tells us that man was placed in the Garden of Eden to till and to guard it. Nowadays the whole world is man's Garden of Eden which he is to tend and guard. We understand that where God has made order we should not make chaos.

There is a conflict of interests here. Genesis also tells us that man is to have dominion over the earth and to subdue it. The earth has a valid claim to be free of man's manipulation, but on the other hand the world was also created for man. We are called upon to strike a balance between exploitation and conservation.

According to the biblical ethic, nature is not sacred in itself. The raw and imperfect state in which the world has been created enables us to be God's partners and to use the achievements of modern science and technology to develop and improve our planet. Such developments contribute towards the fulfilment of the divine purpose for humanity. We may not be able to fathom that purpose fully, but Isaiah's perception that the world was created not as a waste but to be inhabited is surely pivotal. In the final analysis we can ignore his message only to the detriment of humanity and of the world that is our home.

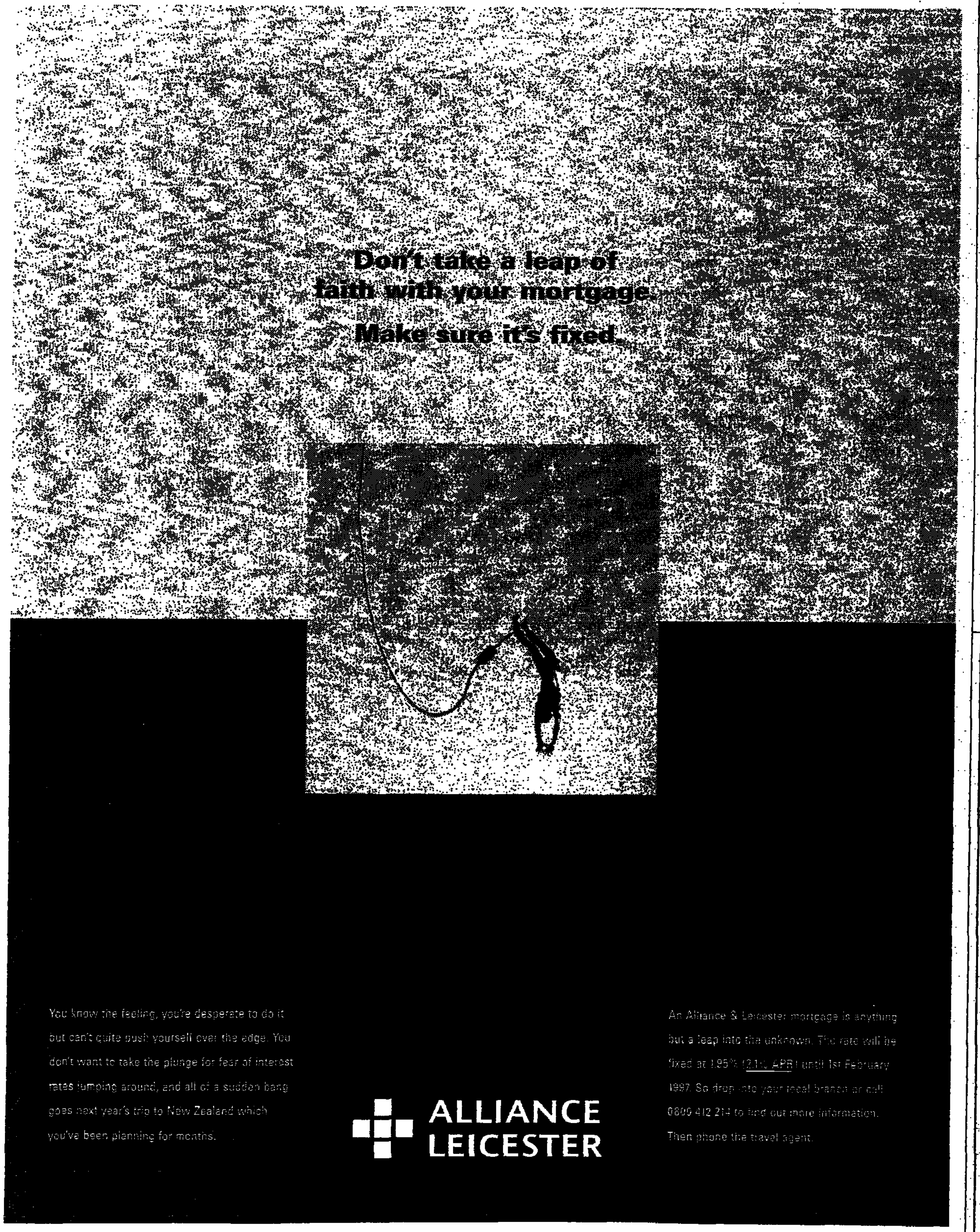
☐ *Dr Julian Jacobs is the rabbi of Ealing Synagogue and the Chief Rabbi's representative on interfaith relationships*

Wedding couples groom the church

COUPLES can be certain that a village church will look nice for their big day. They are being asked to mow the churchyard or paint fences.

The Rev Michael Hatchett, vicar of the 12th-century St Peter's church at Great Totham, Essex, puts the idea to prospective brides and bridegrooms after talking to them about marriage and fixing the day. Nobody has ever refused. Mr Hatchett, 46, said: "I think they feel pleased they can play a part. They feel they belong."

He marries about 20 couples a year. Tim Wyman, 35, a sales manager, and Linda Wyman, 36, a physiotherapist, were the first "volunteers", cutting the grass and weeding flowerbeds. She said: "A friend approached her vicar and was made to go to confirmation classes. That would be dreadful." They now have two children, both christened at the church.



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THE TIMES

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Doctor had cleared attacker

Ten life terms for misogynist who stabbed shoppers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

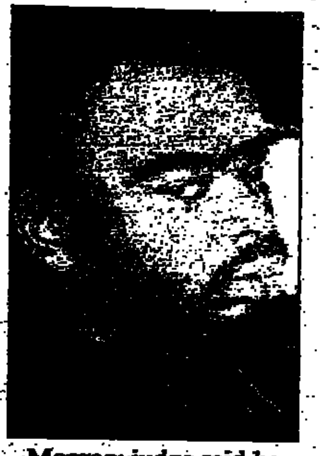
A RELEASED mental patient who slashed the throats of 15 women in a department store was given 10 life sentences yesterday. Two months before the rampage, David Morgan had visited his GP to complain of renewed "evil thoughts" about attacking women, but a psychiatrist could find no sign of illness.

Morgan, 31, took a 12in serrated butcher's boning knife and a kitchen knife into the Rackhams store in Birmingham city centre and made attacks at random in the cosmetics, handbag and jewellery departments, packed with Christmas shoppers in December 1994.

Birmingham Crown Court was told that Morgan had travelled by bus from his home in Aston, pushing and kicking two female shoppers outside the store before entering at 10.15am. Starting in the cosmetics department, he swiped at the neck of an assistant, Debbie Gilbert.

Alistair McCreath, QC, for the prosecution, said another victim, Jan Twining, was browsing in the cards department when he grabbed her shoulder, turned her head, brought the knife across her throat and said: "There's another one".

Two female security officers were injured as they tried to help customers. Morgan was finally halted by Sergeant Jim Lavery and Kevin Hart, a civilian scenes-of-crimes officer, who ordered him to put down his weapon, then rugby-tackled him to the floor.



Morgan: judge said he may never be freed

Mr McCreath said: "Those who had been cut were in fear for their lives. Others were so frightened that they had lost the power to walk."

The court heard that Morgan had a history of schizophrenia, depression and psychotic disorders after his father's death in 1988. That year, he was admitted to All Saints Psychiatric Hospital, Birmingham, after attacking a female shopworker. He had a conviction for shoplifting.

After two months he was released with directions that he should receive support from the community psychiatric team and continue a course of drugs for three months. That never happened, said Adrian Fulford, QC, for Morgan. "It appears from the records that effectively there was no follow up at all."

In 1992 and 1993, Morgan was conditionally discharged for two incidents when he kicked women in the shins. On September 30, 1994, he told his GP of his thoughts of attacking women. Three days later a psychiatrist and a nurse assessed Morgan but decided they could find no evidence of mental illness. Mr Fulford said: "If he had been provided with anti-depressants, there is a real chance these offences would not have occurred."

Morgan admitted nine woundings with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, and an attack on a psychiatric nurse with a razor blade at Ashworth High Security Mental Hospital while on remand. Sentencing Morgan, Mr Justice Judge recommended he should not be put forward for parole for 12 years, and told him: "You must be detained until you cease to represent a risk to public safety. If that time never comes, so be it."

A defence application for further reports to see if he could be detained in a psychiatric hospital was refused.

STEPHEN SHAVER

Thomas Galster and Paula Dixon embracing in Hong Kong yesterday nine months after her life was saved

Wedding for tourist saved by inflight op

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A WOMAN whose life was saved by emergency surgery 35,000ft up on a flight from Hong Kong was married in the colony yesterday.

Two surgeons who were travelling on the British Airways jumbo last May set up a makeshift operating theatre. Using a coathanger, a plastic mineral water bottle, sticky tape, a catheter tube and cognac to sterilise the implements, Professor Angus Wallace, who is based in Nottingham, and Dr Tom Wong, based in Dundee, repaired Paula Dixon's collapsed lung.

Yesterday Mrs Dixon, 39, who is from Newcastle upon Tyne and is divorced with three children, married Thomas Galster, 31, a German who manages a factory in Hong Kong, nine months after they first met.

They were in a motorcycle crash last May as they drove to the airport. Mrs Dixon walked away from the accident, thinking she had only bruised her arm.

MoD opens former spying base to offers

BY JOHN SHAW

THE former American airfield at Alconbury, Cambridgeshire, once home to the U2 spy plane, is to be sold by the Ministry of Defence.

The 1,100-acre site will go on the market in April, a spin-off from the peace dividend. Flying ceased last year when the Americans moved to two bases in Suffolk. They left behind a well-equipped airfield, which now faces a less glamorous future as an international freight distribution centre.

Ian Hudson, of Bidwells in Cambridge, the agents who will prepare a marketing campaign, said yesterday that he thought the airfield might fetch between £20 million and £40 million, possibly to four or five developers. It is at the junction of the East Midlands and East Anglia, two of the fastest growing regions in Britain, at the eastern end of the rapidly developing A1-M1 link, and has a direct road route to Felixstowe, the biggest container port in Britain.

RAF Alconbury was established in 1938 and was a bomber base during the Second World War. The Americans took over in 1942, and the present sprawling complex includes nuclear-resistant hangars and bunkers. The USAF used it as a home for high-flying U2 reconnaissance flights over Eastern Europe.

BARBADOS

The forecast looks good

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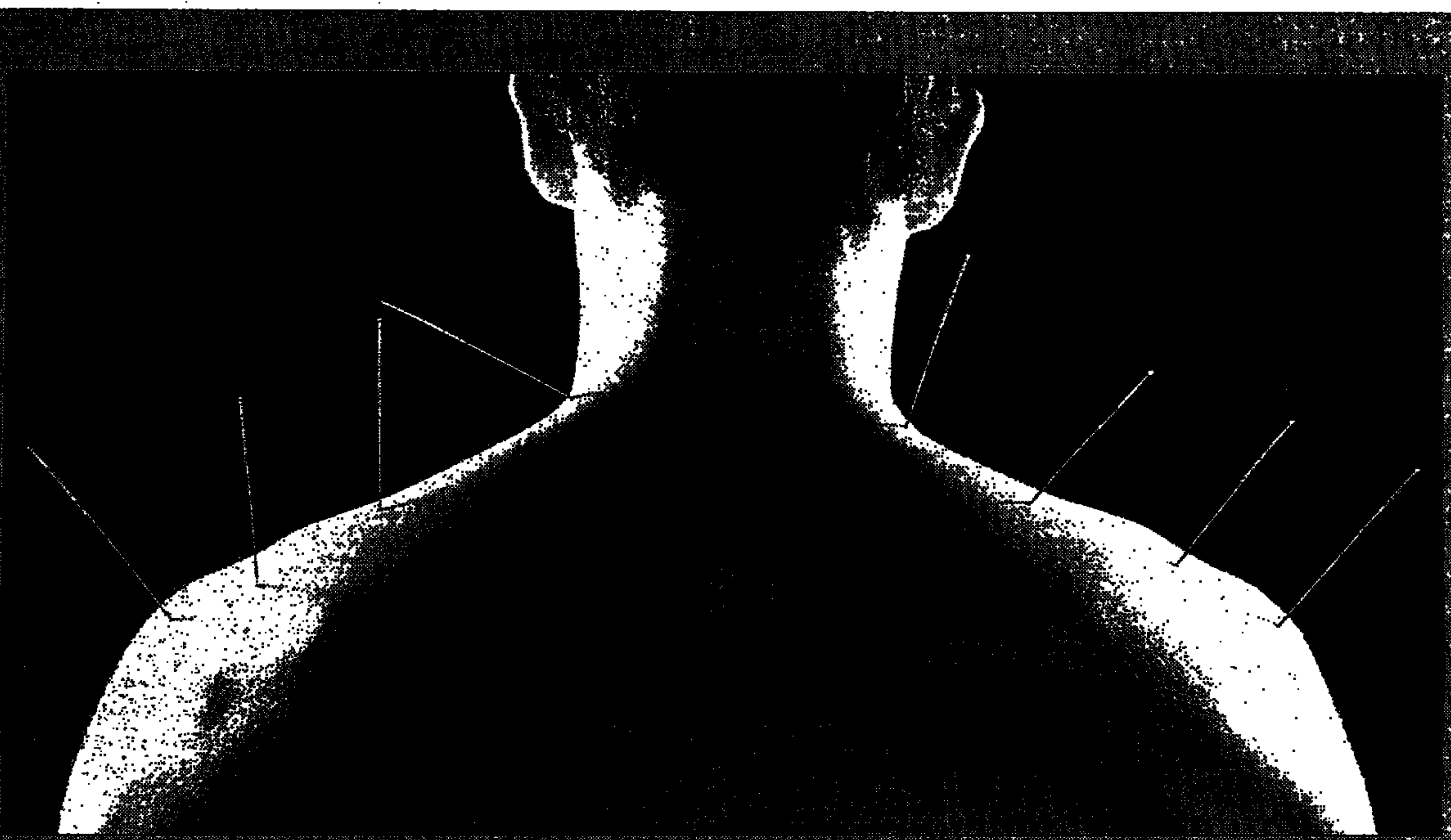

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Widow's defeat in battle for Bart's

By Ian Murray

THE last legal battle to save Britain's oldest hospital was lost yesterday when the High Court ruled that the decision to shut it was lawful.

A judge dismissed a challenge by an 81-year-old widow, who had claimed that the consultation process leading up to the decision to close St Bartholemew's Hospital, near Smithfield Market in London, was fatally flawed and thus illegal.

She had applied for a judicial review of the closure decision made by the local health authority and Virginia Bottomley, who was Health Secretary at the time.

Mr Justice Latham ruled that the consultation" was properly conducted and that the decision to close Bart's and transfer its work to the Royal London Hospital at Whitechapel, also in east London, was "the most advantageous option in financial terms".

He added: "If the decision stands, it spells the end of a great teaching hospital which has served the City of London for over 800 years."

Monica Willan, who lives in sheltered housing on the Peabody Estate round the corner from the hospital, admitted after the judgment that she would now have to give up her personal fight to save Bart's.

"The battle may be lost but the war isn't over," she said. "I think I have got to the end of my usefulness and I'm too bloody old to carry on. But I am sure lots of others will take up the cause."

She said she could no longer walk round the corner to get treatment for her arthritis but had not so far travelled to the Royal London for help. "The very idea of going all that way makes me feel rather ill."

In his 15-page ruling, the judge said the "controversial report" recommending closure had been opposed by 98.6 per cent of those consulted. However, the East London and City Health Authority had concluded that the health of people in its area could best be improved by concentrating all services on one site.

Losing candidate pledges: 'We are going to be a serious national party'

By-election failure forces Scargill into hasty relaunch

By James Landale

Trickett: won with more than 70 per cent of vote

ARTHUR SCARGILL will renew his campaign to gather support for the breakaway Socialist Labour Party next week despite a poor showing at the Hemsworth by-election.

The miners' leader and other SLP members are to hold public meetings across the country to boost membership ahead of the party's formal launch on May 1. Members will also be invited to a conference in London in early March to devise a manifesto.

Yesterday a defiant Brenda Nixon, the SLP candidate who narrowly avoided losing her deposit after receiving 1,193 votes, said it had been a "brilliant" result. "It was a vote of no confidence in the new Labour party," she said. "They said we would come last, they said we would lose our deposit, but we proved them wrong on both counts."

Labour's candidate, Jon Trickett, won easily with 15,817 votes, more than 70 per cent of the vote, reducing the Government's Commons majority to four.

Ms Nixon, a former campaigner against pit closures, said about 1,000 people had joined the party during the campaign, many of them defecting from Labour. "We are a serious party and we are going to be a national party." She said the party had not yet decided whether to contest the forthcoming Staffordshire South East by-election.

The Conservatives yesterday claimed the result fell far short of a ringing endorsement of Labour. Dr Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, said the low turnout — about 40 per cent — showed Labour was failing to impress voters. "I think that lack of enthusiasm for Labour is probably the single most important thing that came out of it," he told BBC Radio.

Tony Blair said the victory was an indication of the appeal of new Labour. "It's the highest percentage of the vote that we've got in this Parliament and I think it shows not merely the disillusionment with the Conservatives, but also the strength and appeal of new Labour."

John Prescott said the miners in the West Yorkshire constituency had given Mr Scargill "a substantial thumbs down" despite his promise to reopen pits.

Result: Jon Trickett (Lab) 15,817; Norman Hazell (Con) 1,942; David Ridgway (Lib Dem) 1,516; Brenda Nixon (SLP) 1,193; Lord David Sutch (Monster Raving Loony) 652; Peter Davies (UK Independence) 455; Peggy Alexander (Green) 157; Mark Thomas (Mark Thomas Fri Nights Channel 4) 122; Michael Cooper (National Democrat) 111; Dianne Leighton (Natural Law) 28. Labour majority 13,875. Turnout 39.46 per cent. Swing 5.43 per cent Conservative to Labour.

Anthony Howard, page 20

PAUL BARKER

Arthur Scargill gives Brenda Nixon a consolatory kiss after she lost at Hemsworth

Bill to curb sex tourism wins cross-party support

By James Landale

CLANDESTINE travel agents who organise holidays abroad for paedophiles seeking sex with child prostitutes are to face prosecution after a Bill to combat sex tourism won cross-party support in the Commons yesterday.

The Sexual Offences (Conspiracy and Incitement) Bill, making it illegal for someone in the United Kingdom to incite another to commit sexual offences against children abroad, received an unopposed second reading and is likely to become law.

John Marshall, Conservative MP for Hendon South, who put forward the Bill, said: "I believe this House has to take action to make it more difficult for paedophiles and child molesters to travel abroad to ply their perversions. I don't think one can find words sufficient to describe the contempt all of us feel for the disgusting and degrading behaviour that some individuals take part in."

Some MPs want tougher action taken so that sex tourists can be prosecuted here for sexual offences committed abroad. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, announced on Thursday a review of the law to see if British courts could extend their jurisdiction to sexual offences committed by UK nationals overseas.

Although Tom Sackville, the Home Office Minister, welcomed the Bill yesterday, he cautioned against extending British legal jurisdiction. He doubted whether British courts would have enough good evidence to ensure successful prosecutions. "This problem can only be solved in the countries concerned, by those governments deciding they don't want these activities to take place in their jurisdiction," he told MPs.

"There are doubts as to whether extra-territorial jurisdiction would be likely to be of assistance in bringing to justice British nationals who commit offences against children in other countries. We therefore feel, subject to the review that is taking place, that our efforts should be concentrated on assisting foreign authorities as much as possible."

Alun Michael, Labour's home affairs spokesman, was disappointed with the Government's response. The Bill was a "small step in the right direction", but the Government's review was "not exactly a tough or vigorous promise of action", he said.

Donald Anderson, Labour MP for Swansea East and a co-sponsor of the Bill, said that it would not prevent the activities of those on independent sex tours.

Militants blamed as Liverpool chief quits

By A Staff Reporter

THE Labour council leader who was instrumental in ridding Liverpool of its "loony left" image resigned yesterday amid claims that hardliners were trying to regain power in the city.

Harry Rimmer, 68, stood down after party officials in his Dovecot ward left him off a shortlist of candidates for city council elections. Labour councillors said they would try to persuade Mr Rimmer, a moderate who took over the leadership in 1990, to reconsider his decision. But opposition politicians said that his "deselection" heralded a return to the militant socialism that flourished under Derek Hatton.

Michael Storey, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said: "Clearly his policies have not been regarded with affection by the members in the Left of the group and as a result he has been ditched. He has been knifed in the back by a growing number of strong leftwingers."

Mr Rimmer, who declined to comment yesterday, was handing the freedom of Liverpool to the city's two premier league football clubs when the ward officials made their decision. Labour has a majority of one on the council.

Isaac Shepheard, the Labour chairman of Dovecot ward, would not comment on the motives behind the decision to drop Mr Rimmer after ten years of service. "It is not my responsibility to explain why people did not vote for him," he said. "I have no idea why they voted the way they did. There was no discussion about it."

Frank Prendergast, the deputy leader who will replace Mr Rimmer, said: "Following the political problems of the 1980s, it was the courage, vision and determination of Harry Rimmer that led the city in the direction of recovery and renewal. He pioneered a new spirit of partnership with government agencies, businesses, the churches and community leaders."

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Persistent offender left trail of breadcrumbs

Judge sends unrepentant bird woman back to jail

By Dominic Kennedy

AN ELDERLY woman who cannot stop feeding pigeons was sent back to prison for 56 days yesterday, leaving a trail of stale breadcrumbs, plump rats and angry neighbours behind her.

Jean Knowlson, 68, who last summer promised the High Court she would not feed the birds any more after her local council in Croydon, south London, took her to court, had 24 loaves in her shopping trolley when a notice of the commital hearing was served on her at a Tesco store last month.

An exasperated Mr Justice Butterfield said she would get a longer sentence next time if she continued to breach court orders and feed the pigeons on her release. "The defendant's conduct has been anti-social, dangerous and wholly unjustifiable, however genuine and well-intentioned she may be," he said.

Knowlson: tests in 1991 found her to be sane

British Rail's environmental department had never seen such a concentrated infestation of rats as at a railway embankment that Mrs Knowlson had coated with crumbs, the court was told.

Croydon council, which obtained an injunction last May restraining her from depositing animal food in the borough, had tried hard to avoid bringing her back to court after she served four days in Holloway last in July. She was offered counselling, but refused. The council asked retailers not to sell bread to her and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds advised her that she was doing the birds no good.

The council found her a new home in a tower block for elderly residents in South Norwood when she was evicted from her previous home on gaining her freedom last year. Within weeks, she was feeding the birds again.

A council official saw bread cascading down from a carrier bag held from her window. He then watched her scatter nearly 100 handfuls near her home. When challenged and warned she could be imprisoned, she shrugged her shoulders and said "So what?"

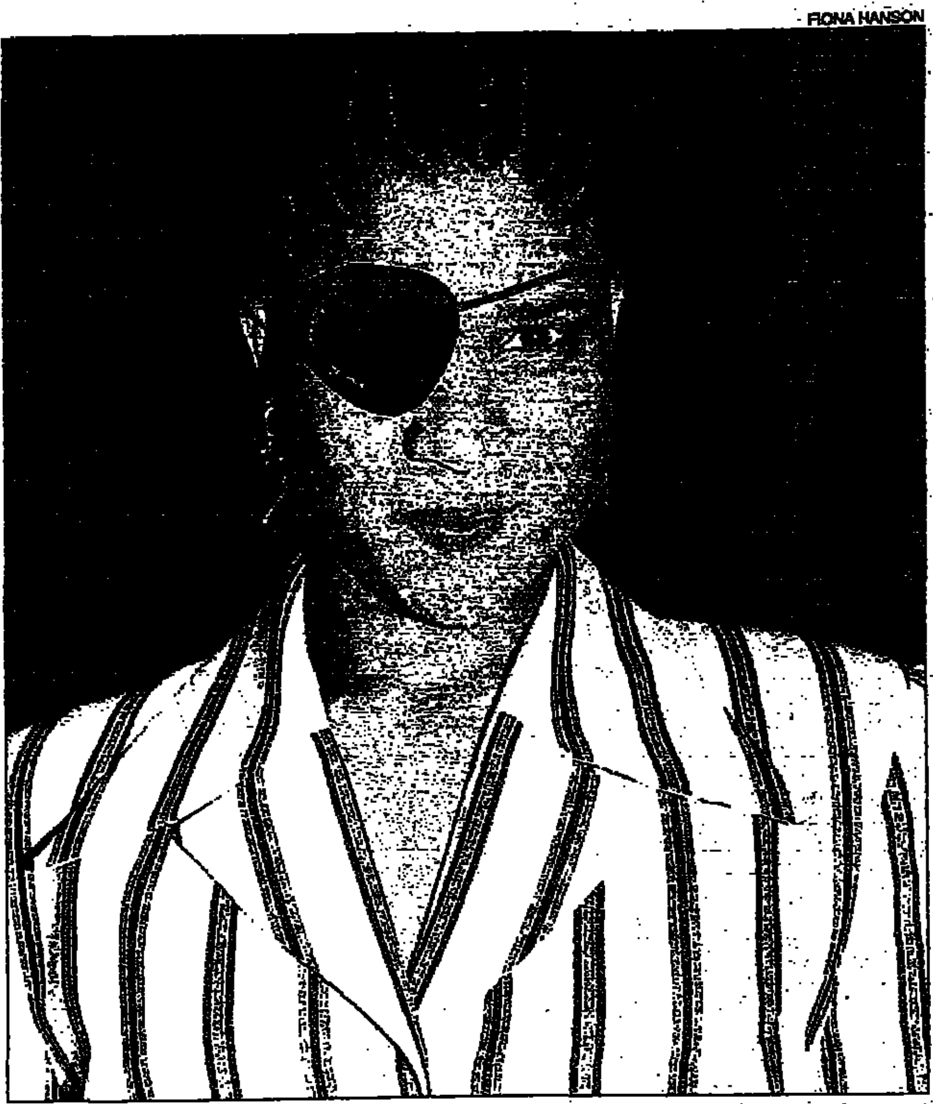
One neighbour had threatened to cover her in petrol and set her alight but this only seemed to make her more determined.

The judge noted that Mrs Knowlson made no apology to the court. Before jailing her, he recalled that from at least 1989 she had been distributing bread in roads, gardens, car parks and railway embankments in the borough of Croydon. "The quantity of bread she has used is prodigious, often more than 100 loaves in a week," he said. Vast numbers of pigeons were attracted and rotting bread on paths was perilously slippery.

Mrs Knowlson had been brought to court and fined three times but continued feeding the birds. The judge said he hoped that her mental state would be examined while in prison and he would allow her back to court to have her sentence reconsidered in the light of any report. Her last psychiatric check was in 1991, which concluded she was not mentally ill.

Mrs Knowlson, a diminutive, hunched figure, said nothing as she was led away from court heavily wrapped in woollens, wearing white trainers, and carrying a suspiciously voluminous shoulder bag.

FIONA HANSON


Gabrielle is a former girlfriend of a man charged with the beauty-spot killing

Pop singer questioned by murder detectives

THE pop singer Gabrielle has been arrested by detectives investigating the murder of a man at a moorland beauty spot. She was released on police bail after questioning.

The singer, who wears an eye patch because of a medical condition and had a No 1 hit two years ago with the single *Dreams*, was held in London on Thursday night and taken to Lewisham police station.

Detective Superintendent Andrew Hardy of Derbyshire police said the interview was "not directly about the murder". Walter McCarthy, 59, a fish-and-chip shop owner, was found dead with head injuries in a lay-by at Cutthroat Bridge in the Derbyshire Peak District four days before Christmas.

Two men, one of them Mr McCarthy's business partner and stepson, Tony Antoniou, who ran the pair's business in Parsons Green, Sheffield, have been charged with his murder.

Gabrielle, 25, is a former girlfriend of Antoniou and the mother of his child, according to his family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fraudster who stole body to be deported

A man was jailed for six years yesterday for a multimillion-pound life assurance swindle. John Folagbade, 32, had stolen a body from a mortuary in Nigeria as part of a fraud plot.

The Southwark Crown Court jury who convicted him of deception and forgery had not been told of the violent attempts to stop the trial. Judge Rivlin, QC, said he would recommend that Folagbade, who was born in Nigeria, be deported after his sentence.

Mother saved

Kim Carr, 8, saved her mother's life after finding her pet lovebirds dead in the bottom of their cage and her mother semi-conscious on a sofa in their gas-filled house at Llay, near Wrexham, Clwyd. She raised the alarm and Stephanie, 32, was taken to hospital.

Fire monitor

Firefighters were watched by a security guard as they spent three hours putting out a fire at the Birmingham Mint yesterday. Afterwards they had to pass through a scanner to ensure they had not taken any coins, thousands of which were damaged by the blaze.

Holy orders

The Bleach Green Social Club in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, has been converted into a church by an evangelical movement, the Cornerstone Christian Fellowship. Beer pumps have been removed from the lounge, where worshippers will congregate.

Attacker jailed

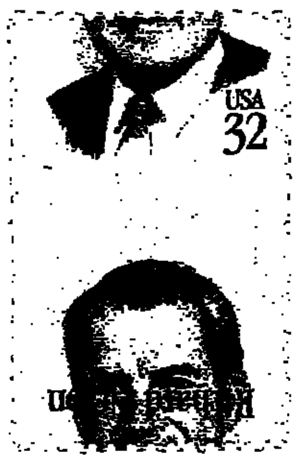
A man who attacked a builder who complained that children had vandalised his car was jailed for four years at Liverpool Crown Court. Richard Mellor, 32, who punched and kicked Barry Hayes, blinding him in one eye, was convicted of grievous bodily harm.

Sharp move

More than 38,000 knives handed in at police stations around Britain during the recent knives amnesty have been melted down and made into lorry axles at the British Steel Engineering Steels works in Stocksbridge near Sheffield.

Red letter day

Two hundred post boxes in Cardiff are being repainted pillar box red after a Post Office blunder led to them getting two coats of traffic light red. The mix-up happened when a shade of red used for stamp vending machines was ordered in error.



The rogue stamp

Two-faced president is bought for £11,000

By John Shaw

A TWO-FACED Richard Nixon won a place in the album of a wealthy stamp collector yesterday when a portrait commemorative showing a double image of the disgraced president sold for £11,043 at Christie's in New York.

The 32 cent stamp was issued by the US Post Office last year but at least one with a spectacular error slipped past the checkers. It showed an inverted portrait out of register with the inscription and the denomination. The unused stamp was bought at a post office in Virginia.

The buyer took it to Christie's in New York where it was one of the star lots in an auction of US postage bought by an American private collector well above the pre-sale estimate. Experts believe there may be others and expect them to emerge.

The reputation of the 37th president has undergone a radical reassessment since his downfall in 1974. More emphasis is laid now on his ending the Vietnam War and rapprochement with China than with sleaze in the Oval Office.

The stamp was among the top five items in a sale where another inverted issue sold for £52,649 to an American dealer. It showed an air mail issue with an aircraft flying upside down in the centre. The 24 cent stamp is known among collectors as "the inverted Jenny" because the biplane is a Curtis Jenny.

The stamp was printed in attractive shades of rose and blue and once belonged to the fourth Marquess of Bute who kept it in the Chancery Lane safety deposit in London.

The building was flooded during one of the heaviest air raids of the war in September 1940 but the stamp was saved even though the glue was washed off. It made almost £50,000 in 1979 at the height of the investment boom.

Collecting, Weekend page 15

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Campaigners say system of labelling hand-woven carpets to reassure buyers does not work

Drive to ban child labour makes India poor poorer

Moves by British charities to outlaw child weavers in South Asia have split activists, ***Christopher Thomas*** *writes*

A DRIVE by British charities against importing Indian hand-knotted carpets made by children has divided social activists in both countries. World sales of rugs from India, Nepal and Pakistan have fallen because of concern about child exploitation, throwing poor families deeper into poverty.

The introduction of a registered label, Rugmark, on exported Indian carpets, supposedly reassuring buyers that child weavers did not make them, was condemned this week as a "fraud and a racket" by Swami Agnivish, one of India's most respected social activists. The scheme is promoted in Britain by Christian Aid and the London-based Anti-Slavery International.

Rugmark has been boycotted by E. Hill and Co, the main exporter of Indian carpets to Britain, partly explaining why no Indian rugs for sale in British stores carry the label. Britain is the third largest importer of Indian rugs after Germany and the United States. Almost all carpets made in South Asia contain an element of child labour.

The labelling scheme, controlled by a Delhi-based nonprofit company, Rugmark Foundation, requires carpet exporters and manufacturers to pledge that their products are not made by children under 14. About 50 Indian companies have signed up with the scheme, representing a small proportion of total carpet exports.

However, it is all but impossible to verify their pledge. Carpet weaving is a cottage industry carried out in thousands of mud huts over a wide area in north Indian villages, where child labour is commonplace and socially acceptable. Rugs are woven primarily by peasants and their families working part-time on their small looms, usually located in poorly lit and badly ventilated huts. Weavers frequently suffer from eye and respiratory problems.

Some child weavers are migrant labourers, mainly from the poor northern state of Bihar, a number of whom are sold into bondage to pay off parents' debts. This amounts to slavery. Most looms in northern India are owned by subsistence farmers whose families weave part-time for extra income.

Swami Agnivish, head of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front, said consumers were being duped into believing that carpets carrying the Rugmark logo were free of child labour. "It is impossible to give such a guarantee, because carpet weaving is contracted out, sub-contracted and then sub-sub-contracted, until you do not know who is making what for whom." He advocates a process of change rather than sweeping measures that could shatter the industry and increase poverty.

The Rugmark Foundation, set up with German government money, seeks payments from importers and exporters of carpets bearing its logo of a smiling face on a rug. Kailash Satyarthi, head of the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude and a driving force behind the scheme, said the foundation would eventually provide schooling and rehabilitation for child weavers.

The Rugmark scheme is opposed by Project Mala, a registered charity run by Robin Garland, a York-based businessman. It operates four schools for 700 children aged ten to 14 in Uttar Pradesh, the centre of carpet manufacture in India, providing basic literacy and employable skills to child weavers.

"In an ideal world there should be no child weavers," Mr Garland said during a visit to India. "But chasing them off the looms takes away income from poor families and does not give children back their childhood. They are simply driven into even more hazardous employment." Oxfam, which sells Indian carpets, takes extraordinary steps to ensure that rugs advertised in its catalogues are free of child labour. This is one of the few examples of careful monitoring.

Kevan Bundell, programme officer of Christian Aid's South Asia team, said in London: "The Rugmark system is not foolproof. It was launched earlier than would have been ideal because of German pressure."

Child carpet weavers in northern India. Many have been sold into bondage to pay for their parents' debts

Rural school defies end of apartheid

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN POTGIETERSRUS, SOUTH AFRICA

THE burly, balding Afrikaner deputy of the primary school embroiled in a national race row shifted awkwardly and glanced nervously across his small office. "The parents are saying they don't want kaffirs coming to their school," he said wearily. "They think blacks are inferior."

In bright sunshine outside, fair-skinned boys with cricket bats played beneath tropical trees, seemingly unaware of the furore going on around them. Last week, their parents slipped into military-style khaki uniforms and physically barred three black children from the school.

Ngokoako Ramathlodi, the African National Congress premier of Northern Province, has ordered the school to open its doors to the pupils or face legal action that could lead to its closure. But at a meeting on Thursday the parents agreed to stand firm. The case will now go to the Pretoria Supreme Court on Monday, the first such test.

A year after formerly whites-only schools were integrated under a single educational structure, many schools in rural areas still preserve their racial exclusivity. Claims by these schools that this is because blacks have not applied are contested and the ANC is becoming impatient.

Apartheid was always more rigidly entrenched in rural towns than cities and is proving harder to shake off. In Potgietersrus, 160 miles north of Johannesburg, many whites are resentful about attempts to enrol blacks in schools which they say were built and maintained with their money.

The two apartheid-era national flags hanging in the main hall at the primary school are reminders of how many whites still cling to the past. In language echoing the dark days of discrimination, one parent told a newspaper this week that the Bible warned about racial mixing and said "under no circumstances" would her children mix with blacks.

Alson Matukane, a civil engineer and father of the would-be pupils, says he is fearful for his safety. He says the school had agreed to admit his children but "when I approached the gates I was shocked to find over 100 whites standing there. They handed me a memorandum in Afrikaans and told me I could not take my children to a white school."

The right-wing Conservative Party, which resisted the end of apartheid, yesterday congratulated the parents on what it says could be "a new awakening by Afrikaners".

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EMU OUTLOOK 26

Anatole Kaletsky at the World Economic Forum

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

WORKING WEEK

Advertising chief who jumps the generation gap

SPORT 42-48

England look to flying winger for swift inspiration

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF NORWICH UNION

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 1996

Hanson's electricity shops axe 2,300 jobs

By Christine Buckley

DOUBTS hang over the future of Powerhouse, the electrical retailer owned by Hanson, after the announcement yesterday of a huge redundancy programme that will hit 2,300 staff and close 195 high street stores.

Although 120 stores will remain trading in the chain that Hanson bought fully in November, after having inherited a 36 per cent stake from its takeover of Eastern Group last year, electricity company analysts believe that Powerhouse has no long-term future.

The chain, which has been losing £25 million a year, shows a similar trading pattern to other electrical appliance outlets run by electricity companies. When ownership of Powerhouse was shifted to Hanson, the co-owners incurred a charge of £140 million.

The chain was bought by Hanson, for what was believed to be a nominal sum, from its co-owners, Midlands Electricity and Southern Electric, when the two companies were both the subject of active bids from the generators PowerGen and National Power. Other electricity companies have left electrical retailing, and the operation has been heavily criticised by high street retailers, such as Dixons, which claim that the activities are loss-making and take advantage of monopoly income from electricity distribution to support a high street presence.

Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst with Yamaichi, said: "There is no money in high street retailing for electricity companies. Such outlets are creatures of the Seventies and Sixties." Many analysts believe that the retailing fronts will disappear around the country, with companies abandoning what was largely the public face of the former electricity boards.

In a submission to Offer, the electricity regulator, in 1992, Dixons argued that, when the cost of financing the capital tied up in the retail business is taken into account, a net aggregate loss was made by one electricity company that had reported an operating profit in appliance retailing.

Recently, in an energy magazine by Oxford Economic Research Associates, John Clare, the chief executive of Dixons, complained that the consumer electrical industry could not support competition that was uncommercial.

When Hanson bought Powerhouse, it said that it would implement a thorough review of the business, but emphasised that it would retain payment points for customers. Yesterday, Eastern Group detailed 300 new meter charging points at a range of new outlets, including post offices and petrol stations. The fact that more charging points than store closures have been announced may cast doubt on the future of remaining Powerhouse stores. There is a belief in the City that those stores will be packaged and sold soon.

Chris Collins, Hanson vice-chairman, said that the future of the remaining stores had been made more secure by the closure programme, but declined to say what the next step would be. "We have secured a future for the remaining stores and that is an achievement on a heavily loss-making business," he said.

Glyn Moser, head of Powerhouse Retail, blamed a highly competitive electrical retailing market for the closures. He said: "This loss-making scenario cannot continue, and the plan offers our remaining staff a secure and positive future."

ANDRÉ CAMARA

BLAGG, the loss-making building supplies merchant, announced yesterday the £30 million acquisition of Freepages, the telephone directory company (Alasdair Murray writes).

The reverse takeover will see the directors of Freepages taking a 54.5 per cent stake in Blagg and the company renaming itself Freepages plc. Existing Blagg shareholders will receive shares in the reconstituted company on the basis of two old shares for one new share. Shares in Blagg were suspended at 17.5p pending the relisting by February 27.

Pictured are the incoming executives Ronald Zimet, chairman, centre, Nigel Robertson, chief executive, right, and Robert Bonnier, finance director.

BA shift on flights creates 1,000 jobs

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to create 1,000 jobs as part of a plan to switch flights from overcrowded Heathrow to Gatwick airport. Eleven weekly Central and East African services will move to Gatwick on March 18.

By the summer BA will fly to as many short-haul destinations from Gatwick as from Heathrow, and within three years it will be handling as many passengers at Gatwick's North terminal as now use Heathrow Terminal 4.

Heathrow services are also continuing to expand so there will be no compensating loss of jobs there. "The people who now operate the Africa services from Heathrow will simply switch to others," a spokeswoman said. New routes into North America are being opened up, as well as services to Edinburgh, Stockholm and Zurich.

The expansion at Gatwick is taking place at a quicker rate than BA envisaged six months ago. It had expected to take on an additional 400 crew.

The airline is stepping up its recruitment drive, including 70 qualified pilots who will be taken on at Gatwick by the summer. The first 16 cadet pilots have started a 56-week training course at Oxford, and others will be trained at Bedford or in Australia.

At the same time 160 direct-entry pilots will be recruited by May 1997 and a further 100 a year will be given refresher training at Prestwick. The BA group already employs 6,877 staff in the Gatwick area.

In 1992, when British Airways took over Dan Air, it operated 380 scheduled flights a week from Gatwick. This summer that number will have risen to 900 a week to 90 destinations.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, said yesterday: "We have chosen to grow at Gatwick because the airport already boasts first-class rail and road links and an extensive route network. Transferring East and Central African services to Gatwick will allow us to expand our business at Heathrow on routes where demand is greatest."

WEEKEND MONEY

31

Anne Ashworth on savers' right to know

BUILDING SOCIETIES

29

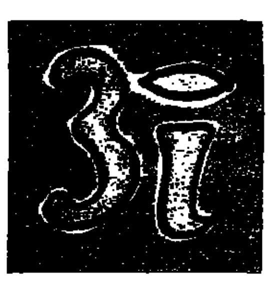
The Alliance & Leicester. Who gains? Who loses?

MORTGAGES

33

The repossession threat. Ways to save your home

INVESTMENT TRUSTS



34-35

Where the shares of the giant will go next

WEEKEND MONEY GUIDES

Part two

Tessas

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[illegible]

FT-SE 100	3781.3	(+28.5)
Yield	3.79%	
FT-SE A All share	1852.65	(+12.44)
Nikkei	20904.03	(-31.08)
New York		
Dow Jones	5402.17	(-2.89)*
S&P Composite	638.14	(-0.32)*

[illegible]

Federal Funds	5⅝%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	110⅝*	(111)
Yield	6.09%*	(6.07%)

[illegible]

3-mth Interbank	6⁵⁄₁₆%	(6⁷⁄₃₂%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	109¹¹⁄₁₆	(110¹⁵⁄₃₂)

[illegible]

New York		
$	1.5190*	(1.5205)
London:		
$	1.5189	(1.5139)
DM	2.2575	(2.2585)
FFr	7.7475	(7.7510)
SFr	1.8529	(1.8459)
Yen	161.98	(162.08)
£ Index	83.7	(83.6)

[illegible]

London:		
DM	1.4854*	(1.4860)
FFr	5.1000*	(5.1087)
SFr	1.2177*	(1.2144)
Yen	106.68*	(106.75)
$ Index	96.4	(96.7)

Tokyo close Yen 107.01

[illegible]

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$18.20	($18.10)

[illegible]

London close	$415.15	($410.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Shares at new high on futures buying

By Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent

SHARE prices yesterday closed at yet another new high after a burst of futures-related buying.

The FT-SE 100 index recovered from a hesitant start to end just a shade below its best of the day with a rise of 28.5, to a record 3,781.3. It stretched the rise on the week to 46.6 points, with a total 830 million shares changing hands. By contrast, government securities had falls of more than £1 at the longer end in volatile trading, which, dealers said, reflected weaker overseas bond markets.

Early impetus for the rise in shares came from the futures pit, where the March series of the FT-SE 100 rose sharply as buyers appeared. At the close, it was still at a 15-point premium to the cash market.

This led to suggestions that institutional investors have begun switching funds from the bond market to equities. However, this was being discounted last night in most quarters.

Shares had a slow start, but quickly rallied as support for the future squeezed prices in the cash market higher.

Stock Market, page 28

Mattel drops $5.2bn offer for Hasbro

By Eric Reguly

MATTEL, the maker of Barbie dolls, yesterday abandoned its $5.2 billion offer for Hasbro after accusing the rival American toymaker of launching a "scorched earth campaign" to remain independent.

Alan Hassenfeld, chief executive of Hasbro, which is best known for its GI Joe soldier dolls and Tonka toys, said: "I am firmly convinced that our board did the right thing in unanimously rejecting their unsolicited proposal because of the very serious antitrust issues raised by it and the resulting very low probability that the transaction could be completed."

Mattel said the strong rejection was peculiar because it had been led to believe that Hasbro was keen on a merger. The two companies had been in talks since last April and, according to Mattel, had outlined a basic agreement in January. Mattel even offered to pay Hasbro a $100 million break-up fee if antitrust law prevented the merger from proceeding. Mattel's share-swap offer represented a premium of $2.2 billion.

Still room at the Savoy

By Jon Ashworth

Sultan of Brunei: interested

THE future ownership of the Savoy group of hotels remains up in the air, despite reports of a "done deal" with Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the billionaire Saudi investor. A handful of bidders have expressed an interest in the group, which includes Claridge's and the Berkeley in London, but a serious contender has yet to emerge.

The Sultan of Brunei, who owns the Dorchester, and his younger brother, Prince Jefri Bolkiah, who owns Asprey, the royal jeweller, are among names to be linked with the Savoy, which faces a new chapter after Granada's victory over Forte. A purchaser would inherit 68 per cent of the Savoy equity but only 42 per cent of the voting shares — an arrangement which thwarted Lord Forte in his long-running struggle for ownership of the Savoy.

A deal with the Savoy would make sense for Prince al-Waleed, who is rapidly emerging as one of the world's most dynamic investors. He holds significant stakes in Euro Disney and Citicorp, and is part of the consortium which recently took control of Canary Wharf, the office development in London's Docklands.

His advisers believe an investment in the Savoy is worthy of serious consideration. He is reported to be eyeing other "prestige" hotels such as the Hyde Park and the Waldorf.

Possible contenders include Kwek Leng Beng, the Singapore-based property tycoon, who last year purchased the Copthorne chain of hotels from Aer Lingus for £219 million. His other UK interests include the Chelsea hotel in Knightsbridge.

The fate of the Savoy rests with family trusts associated with the late Sir Hugh Wontner. They hold the key to any sale, and have left matters in the hands of the Savoy board.

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Bundesbank stands firm on EMU criteria

From Anatole Kaletsky in Davos

HANS TIETMEYER, the President of the Bundesbank, cast further doubt on the credibility of the European single currency yesterday when he said there was "no chance" of softening the Maastricht criteria for monetary union and revived the German Government's demand for a tough "stability pact" to force European countries to intensify their fiscal discipline after 1999.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos in Switzerland, Herr Tietmeyer refused to speculate about which countries, if any, would be ready to join a monetary union by the 1999 deadline. It was not possible to predict the outcome of the review of the Maastricht targets in the spring of 1998. In response to a question about whether he thought monetary union would actually go ahead on schedule, he answered: "1999, that is the date in the treaty ... that is the only date that counts."

The Bundesbank President added that even if the convergence criteria were satisfied, Germany would insist on a further tough political condition before there could be any question of monetary union. Prospective members of EMU would have to agree on a system of fines for exceeding future deficit targets far tougher than the vague procedure outlined in the Maastricht Treaty.

This proposal for a tough stability pact, involving potentially enormous fines, was first made last summer by Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister. But as doubts have spread about EMU, amid indications that neither France nor Germany will be able to hit the Maastricht targets, the demand for a stability pact seemed to recede. Yesterday's statement by Herr Tietmeyer suggested, however, that the Bundesbank's attitude to the issue had, if anything, toughened.

Other governments and the European Commission have said that they accept the principle of a stability pact, but that any such pact should be based on the complex "excessive deficits" procedure laid down in the Maatsricht Treaty.

Herr Tietmeyer said he was now waiting for the Commission to come up with a "concrete proposal", adding that support for an idea "in principle" could sometimes be a subsititute for putting it into practice.

Without strict observance of the Maastricht targets and tough automatic fines embodied in a stability pact, Herr Tietmeyer said it would be impossible to persuade the German public that the new single currency would be as strong as the mark. The Bundesbank could only support a new European currency that was as stable as the mark. Jean-Claude Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France, said he was confident that EMU would go ahead in 1999 and that both Germany and France would hit the Maastricht targets.

Yarrow cuts 650 jobs as MoD holds fire on bids

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

YARROW, the warship-builder on the Clyde, cut more than 600 jobs yesterday and said that further jobs will go unless the Government places orders with the yard for new Royal Navy frigates.

While ministers plan a decision shortly on where to build three Type 23 frigates — with Yarrow seen as favourite — Whitehall emphasised last night that the company maintained there was a need for job cuts regardless of whether it secured the new order.

Yarrow announced the long-feared job losses at the yard, claiming that the 650 redundancies among the yard's workforce of 3,000 were "unavoidable" in the absence of sufficient work to follow on from current contracts, which includes three other Type 23s for the Royal Navy, and two frigates for the Royal Malaysian Navy. Only one Type 23 remains to be launched, with the others now undergoing final commissioning ahead of delivery later in the year.

Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, is considering competing bids to build the next three Type 23s from Yarrow and Vosper Thornycroft in Southampton.

Murray Easton, managing director of Yarrow, said that even if the company was successful in securing the order, there would still be redundancies — though the scale would be reduced. But he made it clear that several hundred more jobs, on top of yesterday's redundancies, would go if the order was placed elsewhere. Vospers is also warning of job cuts if the order goes to Yarrow.

Whitehall officials indicated that the decision on the new order is likely to be announced within weeks. But they pointed out the substantial overcapacity in warship manufacture in the UK, and the efforts the Government had made to assist the warship-building yards to find alternative work from overseas — although they accepted that widespread restructuring in the defence industry beyond the UK made winning new overseas orders difficult.

Jim Moohan, chief shipbuilding negotiator for the GMB general union in Scotland, said yesterday: "For two reasons, the MoD's delay in announcing the Type 23 Frigate programme and the refusal to help yards like Yarrow to diversify, we blame the Conservative Government for this disaster. Their inaction has been disgraceful and has destroyed the lives of 650 workers and their families."

Shop stewards from the yard will now seek talks with Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Sainsbury fuels price war fear

SUPERMARKET shares came under pressure yesterday as J Sainsbury prepared to launch its second major price-cutting promotion of the year, reviving concern about a price war, and stockbrokers cut profit forecasts for the sector (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Sainsbury's February Bonus campaign, starting tomorrow, is a continuation of the January Savers promotion, which it has hailed as a great success, and involves price cuts averaging 25 per cent on 200 items. Sainsbury shares closed unchanged at 389p after recovering from early losses, but Tesco shares closed down 5p, at 287p, and Asda slipped 1.5p, to 104p.

Rival supermarkets yesterday dismissed Sainsbury's move as a gimmick, but analysts say they may yet follow suit.

New alert hits shares in Dawson

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Dawson, the textile group, yesterday fell 14p to close at 97p as the company issued its third profit warning in 12 months.

Dawson said that profits would be well below current market forecasts, blaming tough trading conditions in the UK and overstocking in the US for depressing sales volumes and margins in the fibres and yarns and apparel businesses. It added that the market in fur fabrics had also weakened, it said.

Last year, Dawson made a full-year profit of £1.7 million. At the half-year, the company saw a 43 per cent drop in profits, to £9 million, and gave warning of a difficult second half.

The company, which is best known for its Pringle and Ballantyne labels, has suffered from cancellation of an £8.75 million sale of five US apparel businesses. Dawson said that it is seeking another buyer but that year-end gearing would be higher than expected.

Derek Finlay, chairman, insisted, however, that Dawson would maintain its 1.5p dividend. He said: "Substantial progress continues to be made in improving operating efficiencies in the group's key businesses, including Pringle. I remain confident that the group is on the right track towards recovery."

Tempus, page 28

Finlay: confident that Dawson is on the road to recovery

BT attacks price controls

By Christine Buckley

BT HAS stepped up its campaign for deregulation by calling for an end to virtually all price controls by the year 2000.

The continuing battle with Don Cruickshank, the industry regulator, saw the company also call for a right of reply in disputes with Oftel, with the ability to go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if it does not agree with a decision by Oftel.

BT maintains that competition in telecoms would be sufficient to ensure pricing benefits to customers. It said that liberalisation of the industry across Europe in 1998 and swift developments in technology could speed deregulation so that by 2000 there would be no need for pricing controls, except for those covering access to the system.

Proposals on pricing and fair trading put forward by the regulator last year will be crucial for BT's investment plans. The company and the regulator are at odds on a rate of return. Oftel believes the range should be 9-13 per cent, while BT says it should be 16-18 per cent.

Gold price surges to six-year peak

By Colin Campbell
Mining Correspondent

GOLD dealers were describing yesterday as "Golden Friday" after the gold price leapt $8.65 in early trading to $417.75 an ounce to touch its best level in six years.

Although late profit-taking clipped the price to $414.50 by the close, still nearly $4 higher on Thursday's close, dealers said the mood remains positive.

Some analysts were talking about a new bull market in gold that could take the price to $420 and beyond.

However, others cautioned that the sharpness of the advance could attract widespread selling.

The rush for gold was triggered by suggestions of American fund buying of the metal, and was further encouraged by the issue by Robert Fleming and Goldman Sachs of American-style call warrants on gold.

Sentiment has been further aided by a round of interest rate cuts and news from Barrick Gold that it had reduced its forward selling of the metal.

Gold shares in Australia, South Africa, London and New York were actively traded, and the Johannesburg All-Gold index reached a 13-month high.

Andy Smith, gold analyst at UBS, said that he expects gold to rally further in the near term. "If the $420 level is broached and institutions begin to move significantly into gold, the sky's the limit in the short term," he said.

Roger Murphy, gold shares analyst at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, feels "this is not a one-month wonder".

Silver and platinum rose in gold's wake "which suggests strongly that a big bull market in precious metals could soon be underway," Eli Gifford, technical analyst with Investment Research of Cambridge, said.

Bifu calls first strike over staff allowance

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND staff in London have called the first of a series of one-day strikes for Friday. Members of Bifu, the banking union, voted in favour of strikes to support their claim for a 16 per cent increase in London allowances which have been frozen for the past five years. The bank has 4,000 staff in London and half of them are members of Bifu. However, a bank spokesman said fewer than 450 members of London staff and only one in four Bifu members in London voted in favour of action.

He said: "We regret that Bifu has decided to take this action, but we are confident that we will maintain service to all our customers." The bank believes its London allowance of £3,450 "is extremely competitive with those paid by other banks in London". RBS's allowance is in line with that paid by Lloyds, Bank of Scotland and the Co-operative Bank.

Official reserves fall

UK official reserves fell by an underlying $89 million last month. Total reserves at the end of January were down by $2.09 billion, to $46.99 billion. The underlying fall in reserves came as a mild surprise to economists, who had not expected a change. The underlying fall follows a $36 million drop in December. Kit Juckes, of NatWest Markets, said that last month's change looked like mere "market smoothing". He said: "Sterling has not at any point been so weak that there has been aggressive central bank intervention to support it."

Super utility chief quits

GERRY ORBELL, managing director of United Utilities' international division, resigned in a surprise move yesterday for what the company termed "personal reasons". He left the super utility formed from North West Water and Norweb because of pressures on his family from extensive travel, and because he could not relocate to the North West. Brian Staples, chief executive of United Utilities, said: "He leaves at a time when ... we are studying how best to add electricity activities to our international product range."

Bankruptcy rate dips

BUSINESS failures fell by 3 per cent to 3,722 in England and Wales in the final quarter of last year, compared with the previous three months. For the year as a whole, there were 14,536 company insolvencies, compared with 16,728 in 1994, a decrease of 13.1 per cent, according to the Department of Trade and Industry. The number of individuals going bankrupt in the fourth quarter was 6,481, down 2.4 per cent on the previous quarter, taking the total for the year to 26,319, or 14.4 per cent fewer than in 1994.

Homes recovery 'on way'

HOUSE prices are stable and the housing market is poised for recovery, according to the Nationwide Building Society's January house price survey, published yesterday. The society's prediction comes after news of a 0.1 per cent rise in prices from the Halifax Building Society, whose index showed prices rising for the sixth month in succession. In spite of indications of a tentative recovery, Nationwide said prices were still 0.7 per cent lower than in January 1995 — the average price is now £50,521, against £50,901 then.

Shopping centre deal

CAPITAL AND REGIONAL PROPERTIES, the property management and investment company, has agreed to acquire Wood Green Shopping City, the shopping centre in north London, for £33.05 million. The vendors are Electricity Supply Nominees. Shopping City's anchor tenants are Boots, Argos, C&A, Allied Carpets, Wades Furniture and WH Smith. The development has total lettable space of 463,000 sq ft and two multistorey car parks with 1,479 spaces. It produces £3.2 million of net rental income a year.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.11	1.95
Austria Sch	16.93	15.43
Belgium Fr	49.56	45.26
Canada $	2.194	2.034
Cyprus Cyp£	0.758	0.703
Denmark Kr	9.37	8.57
Finland Mkk	7.50	6.85
France Fr	8.19	7.54
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	393.00	368.00
Hong Kong $	12.39	11.39
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1600	4.5100
Italy Lira	2505.00	2350.00
Japan Yen	176.90	160.90
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.690	2.460
New Zealand $	2.40	2.18
Norway Kr	10.48	9.68
Portugal Esc	245.50	227.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.30
Spain Pta	197.50	184.50
Sweden Kr	11.20	10.40
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	refer	91058.0
USA $	1.617	1.487

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"I have never been a monument man. I have always been a little embarrassed at having my name on the door. I have never looked at the company as an ego trip . . ."

Lord Hanson — Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Heseltine lauds engineering's key role

By Philip Bassett,
Industrial Editor

ENGINEERING in Britain is "absolutely central" to the UK economy and its prospects of meeting the global markets and technological challenges of the 21st century, Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Mr Heseltine was speaking to industry leaders in London at the launch of the new Engineering Council, which, for the first time, brings together under a new, merged identity the 39 institutions and professional bodies in the engineering industry. The conference was relayed live to parallel events around the country.

Mr Heseltine said that engineering was "crucial for the present and future well-being of the national economy", though he warned that its "full potential is not being realised in certain key respects". It needed to promote a "fundamental reform" of the selection, education, training and use of engineers and technicians, he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister welcomed the formation of the new council, and said that the Government would continue to support it and the industry.

But Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, the UK's largest recent engineering project, warned that Britain looked likely to lag behind in making the moves necessary for such projects.

New public-private financing ideas, he said, meant investment, European co-operation, comprehension of the benefits of cross-border projects and looking forward instead of back. "That's four requirements unlikely to sit comfortably here," he said. "How very sad that would be: we must not let it happen."

Later this year, the council will launch a new drive to win support for the industry. Dr Alan Rudge, deputy group managing director of BT and chairman of the new council's senate, said the changes marked the "beginning of a new era for the engineering profession", and gave it and engineers a new mandate for the future.

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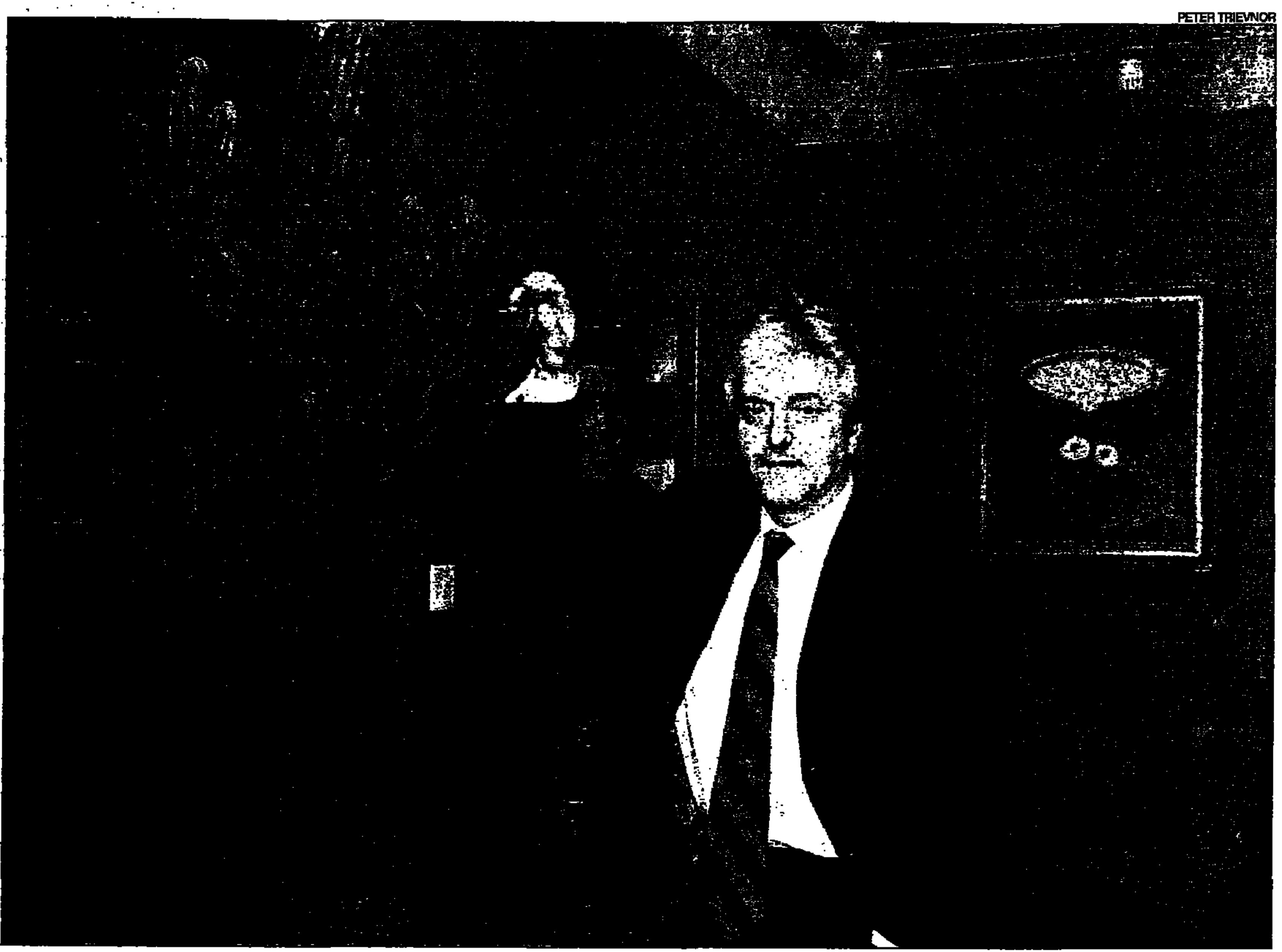
SCOTTISH WIDOWS

A WORKING WEEK FOR: PAUL SIMONS

Man who played Cantona on his sales pitch

Teenagers mistrust anything promoted by the older generation. **Martin Waller** meets an ad man who can break down the barrier



WorkStation: Paul Simons in the Soho office that he has occupied since 1988. A Nike advertisement featuring Eric Cantona hangs on the wall

HE IS the Dad from Hell. You and your friends want to watch *Hotel Babylon*, but he won't go to bed. He wants to watch it too. He says "phat!" and "ba-a-ad" and "wicked" a lot. He rifles through your magazines. He listens to your CDs — "this one's got a good beat".

Your culture is yours. It is meant to alienate, to keep out all but teenagers — that is why it is so noisy, so lurid, so tribal. It is not meant to build bridges with his generation.

It was sold to you by middle-aged men in suits.

Paul Simons is 47, and on a good day he wears a suit. He is not the Dad from Hell. But he has sold more than 400,000 PlayStations to teenagers across Europe versed in the black arts of *Mortal Kombat* and *Doom*. He has made Sony Corporation very happy, and wiped the smiles off the faces of two other Japanese corporations, Sega and Nintendo, whose own hand-held consoles once defined and dominated the video games market.

Simons Palmer operates out of a hideous blue and pink building in Soho's Adland. Inside, the walls are painted similarly garish colours, huge plastic cacti abound, the cast-offs of an old advertisement shoot, and somewhere in the distance an anonymous soul diva bemoans her love life. Men clad entirely in baggy black stride about clutching poster tubes.

> ❛ The style of this place is very honest and very open ❜

When Simons Palmer moved there in 1988 — the cacti arrived later — it was designed to look as little as possible like the headquarters of an advertising agency. As a result, it looks just what it is, the headquarters of an extremely trendy advertising agency.

Simons Palmer is actually Simons Palmer Denton Clemmow and Johnson. As is the way in Adland, Palmer and Denton are no more, having departed in February 1994 to direct commercials rather than dream them up. Their 20 per cent stakes in the business are in the expensive process of being bought by the remaining three.

It is a pattern repeated at Gold Greenlees Trott, the bigger agency from which much of Simons Palmer decamped six years ago and where Dave Trott, the demotic genius behind the Toshiba ads of a few years ago, then quit too, to leave behind only the faint echo of his name.

Simons Palmer set up in business about five minutes before the biggest recession the ad world had ever seen. It was founded with the help of the money Simons made on his departure from GGT, a break he says he had to engineer to keep his share option profits, and an understanding if sometimes nervous bank manager. The agency, still small but regarded as one of the few entrepreneurial boutiques now on the up, has won enough awards — they all win awards — but it has become especially adept at selling to young people.

It produced, for example, a string of brilliant and irreverent ads for Nike featuring Eric Cantona — among them: "66 was a great year for English football. Eric was born". Then there was: "Behind every great goalkeeper there's a ball from Ian Wright." Nike, third in the sports shoe market five years ago, is now number one by turnover.

"Being over 20 and writing for people under 20 is always tricky because of the generation gap," says Simons. "When you get to over 40 that gap becomes enormous. The young know when they are being sold to. They want to discover things for themselves. You can't just go out there and say, it's the best, because it gets thrown back in your face."

Traditionally, advertising types split into two camps, the smooth-suited account handlers who deal with the clients, and creatives who dream up the ads. Simons, oddly, is neither of these, but somewhere in the middle. A former colleague reflects: "One of his great talents has to be his ability to spot talent in others — he's built a team with some bright people around him.

"He's one of those strange people who are bright without being intelligent." He also has a distinctly odd approach to his clients. Most agencies will walk on hot coals to keep them. Simons once fired one.

The agency was given the task of turning round the Wrangler brand, all but banished from smart clothes shops by Levis because the jeans' ghastly, middle-aged image meant they were shunned by the young, the target market. "The challenge was getting Wrangler to be regarded by them as a legitimate alternative to Levis," says Simons.

Within three years sales and market share were up, aided by a grainy television campaign that stressed gritty urban life as against the glossy 1950s Americana being used to sell Levis. But the owners of Wrangler were not happy.

"We started getting this left-field pressure. 'Maybe the advertising shouldn't be so radical,' they said," Simons remembers. For example, the American owners wanted to change the soundtrack by Jimi Hendrix, the guitarist who has acquired the posthumous status of a demi-god to the grunge generation, to Michael Jackson. Simons responded by buying a copy of *Melody Maker*, drawing up ten musical questions, checking that his son, then 17, knew the answers and throwing them at the American executives. "I wanted to establish who had the authority in all of this." Predictably, none knew any of the answers.

"It showed the danger of middle-aged men making decisions about products made for the young," he says. Two to three weeks later, with no improvement in the relationship, he made it clear that the business — billings of £6 million a year — was no longer wanted. "My phrase was, let's quit while we're ahead," he says.

The Sony PlayStation campaign was inspired by marijuana. More precisely, a US government propaganda film of the 1950s called *Reefer Madness* which, while attempting to keep viewers off the weed, made it all seem too exciting and adventurous to miss.

The ads feature a nerdish American, ostensibly a member of a secret organisation called the Society Against PlayStation, warning teenagers of the perils of the Sony contraption. It is based on the premise that if you forbid a teenager to do something, he or she will then do it for sure.

It is enormously witty and stylish, with a dark, surreal tinge. It is also almost incomprehensible, without an explanation, to anyone over 25.

Simons wanders into a board meeting considering the next Sony campaign. In the room are five men, one woman, one tie, two earrings (female), one earring (male) and a litter of graphs and charts. The six argue heatedly among themselves about software and beat-'em-ups. Simons makes perhaps six remarks in the course of 25 minutes and then, apparently at random, stands up to leave.

Even he is unable to sum up his role at Simons Palmer. He describes himself as a catalyst, which says nothing, but bridles at the word administrator. He is a great bridler, quick to take offence even though he denies this. He bridles at a question about his smoking, he bridles at mention of an earlier article in the trade press that accused him of deliberately humiliating his staff to get the best out of them. Simons says: "I do get accused a lot of being too harsh. I don't do it in a way that is humiliating. But people get too close to the issue, and they have to be challenged.

"I think the traditional perception of an ad agency is that everything that happens, and any questioning that is done, has to have a big dollop of syrup over it. The style of this place is very honest and very open — we ask questions without the syrup and the sugar."

He certainly has high expectations of people, and insider gossip says the break with his previous agency was inevitable because of his need to be in control.

The Nike, Wrangler and Sony campaigns had one thing in common. They were all coming from behind.

When Sony approached Simons Palmer last spring, they had no firm ideas, but they knew previous games ads had resembled children's TV — loud music, bright lights, fast cutting. "Clients tend to walk in and say, we have a problem with this brand," says Simons. "What you can't do is produce advertising that is absolutely identical to what already exists — there's no point."

What this in effect means is that clients sometimes have to be told that they are wrong, and that their current advertising, on which they have spent millions, is wrong too.

Simons's favourite quotation comes from George Bernard Shaw. Shaw wrote: "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world: the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Marbled splendour instils reassurance in face of risk

Joanna Pitman admires the opulence of Norwich Union's main office

Totting up the underwriting risks of life and property insurance is not normally done in a church. But at Norwich Union insurance group, the chairman and his directors and secretarial teams toil away in the grand and elaborately well-appointed surroundings of a cathedral.

The Marble Hall at the group's headquarters in Surrey House, Norwich, which has just emerged from a four-year refurbishment, is decorated with the marble stones, pillars and slabs originally destined for Westminster Cathedral in London.

The assignment of 40 solid pillars of verde antico and cipollino marble and the massive slabs of fine coloured stones for lining the walls were held up by a strike at the Italian quarry. When the shipment turned up just before the turn of the century it was too late to get it into Westminster Cathedral. But George Skipper, the architect commissioned to build Norwich Union's new main office, heard about the unwanted consignment and recommended its purchase for £5,000 to incorporate it in the building.

The Marble Hall was completed in 1904 with a glass dome 40ft in diameter, surrounded by a colonnade and 30ft high walls lined with other marble pieces. Skipper made ingenious use of the pieces designed for Westminster Cathedral's font, assembling them in the centre of the room as a ventilation system still in use today, circulating warm or cold air through vents concealed at the bases of some of the columns.

The staircase leading to the boardroom on the first floor consists entirely of marble and has a vaulted and intricately decorated plaster ceiling. Skipper's decoration of the boardroom was inspired, it is thought, by visits to the state apartments of Holkham and Houghton, Norfolk's stately halls. The gilded and carved ceiling incorporates circular paintings by George Murray of the Three Fates — Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos. Bordering these are the signs of the zodiac and two semicircular paintings showing Clio, the muse of history, and Calliope, the muse of epic poetry. An arcaded corridor runs right around the room.

An innovative architect, Skipper made very early use of steel beams, which, untouched for nine decades, had begun to corrode. The lime mix used to attach marble slabs to walls was also beginning to come away, making the refurbishment essential.

The building is Grade I listed and had been unaltered until work began on it four years ago. In spite of its overtly ecclesiastical trappings, the Marble Hall has always been maintained as an active business room. Norwich Union holds its AGM there and in each of the four corners are offices and committee rooms used by senior executives.

Very little is known about Skipper, apart from the fact that he was the son of a building contractor and studied architecture in Norwich and then London. But for more than a century his legacy in marble has offered inspiration to insurance underwriters, even if it has lacked the quiet contemplative calm of a cathedral.

As with all historic buildings functioning as working environments, adaptation to modern-day technology has not been easy. Computer terminals are dotted around on the chequerboard flagged floor. John Mundey has been facilities manager since 1956. "I suppose you get a bit blasé seeing it every day," he said. "But ... a marble connoisseur would have a field day."

Italian job: staff at Norwich Union headquarters working in the ornate Marble Hall

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Fidelity	9	4	2	5	7	25	10
M&G	29	18	7	8	12	9	19
Perpetual	4	5	3	3	2	2	2
Schroder	32	26	9	7	6	6	5

Source: Extract from Investment Intelligence. Group weighted performance table of all unit trusts offered by the 40 largest unit trust management groups measured by total fund size to 1.1.96.

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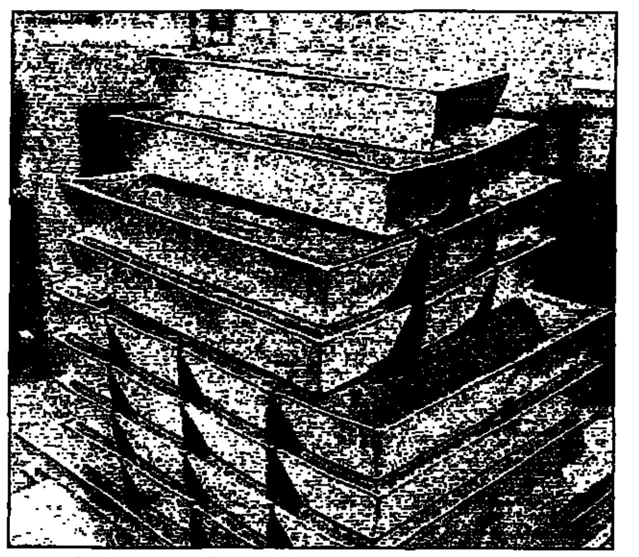
STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Index higher as futures advance and gilts wilt



A five-year high in gold perked up the producers

FUTURES-RELATED buying enabled investors to end the week on a high note, with share prices closing at yet another record high.

The FT-SE 100 index finished just below its best of the day, with a rise of 28.5 points to 3,781.3, stretching its lead on the week to 46.6.

By contrast, government securities suffered falls of more than £1 in places, partly reflecting weakness in overseas bond markets.

This led to suggestions that institutional investors had begun switching out of gilts and into equities, where a total of 813 million shares were traded.

There was no doubt where the initial impetus had come from. Strong buying of the financial future enabled the equity market to wipe out an early fall. The March series of the FT-SE 100 index closed at 3,797, a premium of 15 points over the cash market.

Glaxo Wellcome staged a chart breakout, with a rise of 17p to 969p on turnover of 4.58 million. Independent researchers point out that the shares are now trading at their highest level relative to the rest of the market since 1992. They forecast that the next stop for the shares will be the £10.80 level.

It was a disappointing session for **Zeneca**, however, with the price touching £12.16 before ending 31p lower at £12.45.

Whispers in the marketplace claim that the group has run into trouble with the US Food and Drug Administration over one of its asthma treatments. Almost 4.5 million shares changed hands.

Heavy turnover was reported in **W H Smith** as the price eased 2p to 414p. Cazenove, the broker, is said to have arranged a deal in 3.5 million shares, paying 407p, before selling them on at 410p. There was also a cross in 4.97 million shares at 415p. A total of 17.3 million had been traded at the close.

The continuing strength of the bullion price turned out to be good news for producers of the precious metal. The price rose $5.50 to a five-year high of $414.50, after touching $417 an ounce.

The US Barrick Gold Corporation, the biggest producer outside South Africa, recently decided to buy back almost six million ounces on world markets. This latest flurry of activity benefited the likes of **RTZ**, up 34p at 950p, and **Lonrho**, 7p stronger at 217p. It also proved to be good news for **Bakyrchik Gold**, the British company exploring for the metal in Kazakhstan, which closed sporting a rise of 45p at 490p.

The food retailers had to contend with another twist of the screw as **J Sainsbury** embarked on a new series of price cuts. Its February Bonus scheme offers cuts of between 25 per cent and 50 per cent on 200 own-brand lines and follows hard on the heels of its January Savers. Sainsbury is clearly aiming to try to snatch back market share. The company said it had been delighted by the response to the January campaign. Its shares closed unchanged at 391p. **Tesco** came under renewed pressure, falling 5p to 287p as BZW, its own broker, followed others and reduced its profits forecast for the year just drawing to a close by £8 million to £682 million.

On Wednesday, NatWest Securities cut its forecast for Tesco by £9 million to £678 million and for 1997 from £763 million to £738 million. It blamed the impact of the petrol price war and lower than expected sales growth from new floor space.

Argyll, the Safeway supermarket chain, touched 317½p, before ending the session down 9p at 319p as one seller failed to unload a line of five million shares at 317p. By the close, just two million shares had changed hands.

There was another burst of speculative buying in **Standard Chartered**, the international banking group, as the price surged 17p to 648p. Much of the activity in the shares revolves round the words "formal" and "informal". Earlier this week, the group denied having any formal talks about a possible takeover, or acquisition of a sizeable stake in the company. The latest reports suggest that it has had informal bid talks with **National Westminster Bank**, 1p dearer at 667p.

Shares of **Blagg**, the builders merchant, were suspended at 17½p pending a reverse takeover by **Freepages**, the privately owned freephone information group.

Under the terms of the deal, Blagg will issue 250 million new shares worth £30 million. Some 83.3 million shares will be placed at 12p each, to raise £10 million, with a further 34.4 million issued for a share option scheme for company employees. The enlarged company will boast a stock market value of £44 million.

One casualty of the day was **Dawson International**, which fell 14p to 97p after warning that profits for the current year were likely to fall short of City forecasts. Brokers had originally been looking for an outcome of £15 million.

A profits warning left Aim-listed **Satellite Communications Systems** 8p down at 98p. The group says 1995's trading losses will be heavier than expected and blames the delay in reaching satellite receiving equipment installation levels. It expects to be profitable by the end of the current year.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Investors endured a volatile session that saw losses at the longer end extend to more than £1 in places. Prices in London opened lower, reflecting weaker overseas bond markets. Attempts at a rally after publication of the latest US payroll numbers proved short-lived. The rout continued in late trading, leaving prices at their low point of the day.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell £$^{29}/_{32}$ to £109$^{11}/_{16}$ in hectic trading that saw 92,000 contracts completed.

At the longer end of the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 tumbled £1⅛ to £100$^{31}/_{32}$, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$^{7}/_{16}$ off at £104$^{7}/_{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Profit-takers were in evidence after the week's climb, and, by midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 2.89 points lower at 5,402.17.

Lucas Industries rose 6p to 204p. Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, calculates the group's aerospace interests, which are expected to be sold within the next few years, are worth about £600 million against a total stock market value of £1.7 billion. Smiths Industries and TI Group are tipped as possible bidders.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Hanson	197p	-6p	Demerger proposals
Lloyds Chemists	454p	+28p	Hopes of a counter-bid
Standard Chartered	648½p	+11½p	Bid hopes revived
Quality Software Prods	410p	-298p	Profits warning
Farnell Electronics	669p	+57p	Meeting institutional investors
Yorkshire Electricity	752p	+74p	Bid speculation
Abbey National	609p	-22p	Gloomy mortgage lending figures
Celltech	475p	-182p	Asthma drug trials abandoned
Misys	641p	+41p	Better than expected trading news

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5402.17 (-2.89)
S&P Composite 638.14 (-0.32)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20904.03 (-31.09)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11469.40 (+106.60)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 504.59 (+0.85)

Sydney:
AO 2293.2 (+8.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2452.06 (-7.20)

Singapore:
Straits 2468.17 (+15.92)

Brussels:
General 9057.37 (+26.46)

Paris:
CAC-40 2022.21 (-1.88)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 741.50 (-0.20)

London:
FT 30 2784.8 (+22.0)
FT 100 3781.3 (+28.5)
FT-SE Mid 250 4152.2 (+23.3)
FT-SE-A 350 1879.2 (+13.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1568.84 (-1.90)
FT A All-Share 1852.65 (+12.44)
FT Non Financials 1955.75 (+14.15)
FT Fixed Interest 113.88 (+0.03)
FT Govt Secs 94.88 (-0.41)
Bargains 33086
SEAQ Volume 830.4m
USM (Datastrm) 201.26 (+0.44)
US$ 1.5190 (+0.0063)
German Mark 2.2584 (-0.0013)
Exchange Index 83.7 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU n/a
£:SDR 1.0407
RPI 150.7 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 149.6 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ballynatray Hldgs	6	...
Century Inns (120)	120	...
Dmatek	76	+ 2
MediaKey (60)	65	...
Nthn Petim Wts	8	...
Revelation Plc	105	...
Self Sealing Sys (54)	55	+ 2
SkyePharma B Wts	8	...
Viewinn	200	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Berkeley Gp n/p (435)	91	+ 5
Eleco Hldgs n/p (28)	½	...
Oxford MI n/p (235)	109	+ 5
Western Sel n/p (14)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Titon	140p (+11p)
Security Serv	920p (+58p)
Securicor 'A'	920p (+55p)
Mitel	403p (+24p)
Photobition	349p (+18p)
Corlecs	234p (+12p)
Scot TV	530p (+27p)
Danka Bs Sys	629p (+29p)
Bellway	270p (+11p)
RTZ	951p (+35p)
Mersey Docks	441p (+16p)
Johnson Matth	564p (+20p)
Morland	628p (+20p)
Osborne & Little	483p (+13p)
Reuters	639p (+18p)
Refuge	441p (+11p)
Ladbroke	181p (+12p)
Wintrust	305p (+10p)
HTV Group	342p (+9p)
Shield Diag	135p (+8p)
Granada	733p (+18p)

FALLS:

Dawson	97p (-14p)
Frost Group	124p (-16p)
Celltech	475p (-43p)
Bluebird Toys	332p (-17p)
Bostrom	283p (-12p)
Chiroscience	274p (-10p)
Biotech Inv	278p (-10p)
Barbour Index	279p (-10p)
John Menzies	525p (-9p)
Argyll	319p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

How not to build Alliance

AS IF panicked by the prospect of a Labour election win, building societies are stampeding towards the Stock Exchange to list their shares. The prospect of a painless gain will ensure that Alliance & Leicester depositors vote in favour of conversion, but that is no reason to be optimistic about the long-term future of an Alliance plc.

Every building society trots out the same reasons for flotation. Sure enough, this week A&L pointed to the need for access to wholesale money markets and argued that listed shares will enable A&L to raise capital to support growth and make acquisitions. A&L is starting up its own life insurance business, but the society knows that success in pensions requires a big name and the acquisition of a pensions business must be high on the agenda. If all this sounds familiar, it is because the route is well trodden. However, A&L with its 4 per cent of the mortgage market, offers few special attractions when compared with the retail market clout of a Lloyds Bank or Halifax.

To be fair, A&L has better reasons to float than Woolwich. With Girobank under its wing, A&L has a large number of pure banking customers and boasts a big cash management operation. It could be argued that a diversified business needs an investor base prepared to take on greater risks.

But these are sidelines for a business with 70 per cent of its capital tied up in mortgages, a commodity product suffering ever greater competition. There is an alternative strategy. Merger with another building society, combined with a drive for lower costs, would enable it to offer better rates. Unfortunately, A&L seems determined to chase the great share-owning democracy into the sunset.

Graseby

SHARES in Graseby, the electronic instrumentation company, are marooned on a three-year low. An erratic trading history followed by a November profit warning persuaded at least one institution to sell in recent weeks.

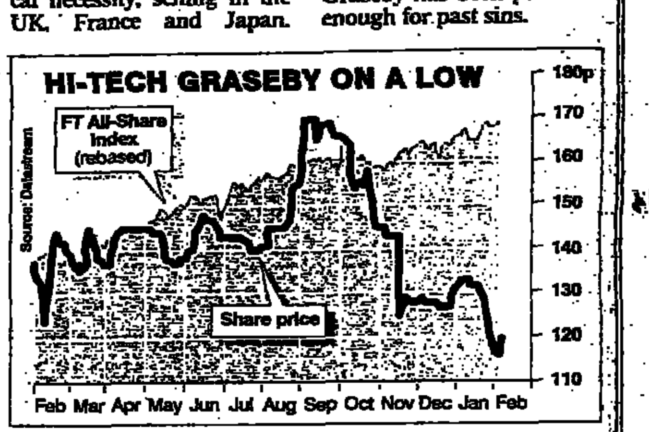
Graseby's problem is that its high-tech products look attractive on paper but are too often regarded as optional extras, items that fail to survive budget cuts in tough times. Chemical warfare monitoring instruments and food impurity detectors might be standard equipment on the Starship Enterprise but get short shrift from financial directors.

However, there is reason to believe that Graseby is building up a core of reliable sellers. The decline in defence spending has bottomed out and order inquiries are increasing. While spending is unlikely to return to the boom levels of the 1980s, governments must replace outdated monitoring equipment over the next few years.

The medical division offers the best way forward. The company's drug delivery system is becoming a medical necessity, selling in the UK, France and Japan. Graseby now has its eyes on the huge American health market, with an acquisition or joint venture to add much-needed muscle.

The troubled environmental division is being kicked back into shape and is probably destined for disposal in the next couple of years. Graseby has been punished enough for past sins.

HI-TECH GRASEBY ON A LOW



Dawson Intl.

THE sudden cold snap has come too late to help Dawson International, the textiles and knitwear group that owns the Pringle brand. Yesterday, it added a further dose of gloom to the warning issued last November: sales have been decimated by aggressive destocking by US retailers, and its UK businesses have been hurt by poor sales in a warm autumn. Lack of demand has backed right up the chain to the fibres and yarns business.

Dawson has virtually written off the current financial year as the one when Christmas did not happen. Analysts who were expecting profits in the £15 million range cut their forecasts in half, and expectations for the six months to next October are modest. Dawson has been badly hit in the US, where discount multiples, such as Walmart, have almost handcuffed their buyers in a bid to rid shelves of unsold stock. The drastic action means that Dawson was unable to recover any ground during America's Christmas freeze.

To add to Dawson's miseries, efforts to sell five US factories were set back when a purchaser failed to complete on a contract, leaving the group with higher borrowings than expected. Dawson has enough on its hands trying to revive the fortunes of the Pringle brand. Trying to sell thermal underwear to fast-moving retailers in the US is a different sort of business and it is scarcely surprising its fingers have been caught as the Americans slammed the door. This could be a slow recovery.

Farnell

THE sheer size of Farnell Electronics's bid for Premier has given some shareholders the jitters, and, last week, rumours abounded that votes would be cast against the deal. A good look at the two companies suggests that that would be a mistake.

Doubters point to the price, which values Premier on a multiple of 24 times prospective earnings. Clearly, the dilution from the £350 million rights issue and extra borrowings will depress earnings in the current year but no deal should be predicated on a one-year view. Assuming minimal benefits from the merger, shareholders who subscribe for rights at 540p are paying only 12 times earnings in January 1998, hardly expensive.

Perhaps the real worry is the notion that Farnell's management are getting out of their depth in a huge American deal. However, Farnell's team has yet to slip up. It is not embarking on a new business, but taking over one almost identical to its own, with room for improvement in both margins and sales.

Edited by Carl Mortished

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	918-917	May	1033-1030
May	937-936	Jul	unq
Jul	958-957	Sep	–
Sep	976-975	Dec	–
Dec	995-994		
Mar	1021-1019		Volume: 8363

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2080-2070	Nov	1810-1808
May	1893-1890	Jan	1800-1785
Jul	1840-1838	Mar	1810-1780
Sep	1815-1814		Volume: 4355

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	313.0-11.9
Spot: 380.0		Dec	304.0-02.9
Mar	367.5-67.2	Mar	301.3-00.0
May	353.7-53.2	May	299.2-97.3
Aug	338.7-37.5		Volume: 1683

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 1

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	106.61	131.57	121.44
(+/-)	+0.69	+1.65	-0.51
Eng/Wales:	108.62	132.56	121.41
(+/-)	+0.52	+2.19	-0.04
(%)	-3.0	+14.0	+6.0
Scotland:	107.63	128.21	121.45
(+/-)	+17.95	+0.70	-2.81
(%)	-17.0	+90.0	+4.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.00	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Mar)	16.70	(n/c)
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.20	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	17.85	(n/c)
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	17.35	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 168 (n/c)	O: 170 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	170 (+4)	171 (+3)
Non EEC 1H Feb	168 (+3)	170 (+4)
Non EEC 1H Mar	157 (-6)	159 (-5)
3.5 Fuel Oil	97 (n/c)	99 (+1)
Naphtha	169 (n/c)	171 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Feb	163.25-63.50	May	146.50-47.00
Mar	154.25-54.50	Jun	145.75-46.00
Apr	149.25-49.50		Vol: 33140

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	16.72-16.73	Jun	15.80 BID
Apr	16.21 SLR	Jul	15.76 SLR
May	15.94 SLR		Vol: 36425

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	123.35	Mar	114.35
May	125.15	May	116.00
Jul	127.10	Sep	108.75
Sep	112.90	Nov	110.75
Nov	114.25	Jan	113.50
Volume: 292		Volume: 26	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	174.0	171.5
May	unq	197.5
		Volume: 196

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Feb 105.75-106.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 96	1385	1360	1385
Mar 96	1385	1361	1380
Apr 96	1385	1360	1381
Jul 96	1275	1260	1275
Vol: 376 lots		Open interest: 3958	

Index 1494 -10

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2579.0-2581.0	3mth: 2532.0-2533.0	Vol: 1769975
Lead ($/tonne)	772.00-773.00	769.00-770.00	615400
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1061.5-1062.0	1077.5-1078.5	1123775
Tin ($/tonne)	6225.0-6235.0	6260.0-6265.0	12870
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1580.0-1581.0	1598.0-1599.0	1668300
Nickel ($/tonne)	8620.0-8625.0	8725.0-8730.0	119418

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	500	30½	37	44	10	20½	23
(*513½)	550	8½	14½	21½	39	50½	52½
Argyll	300	34½	39½	42½	3	9	11½
(*327½)	330	14½	21	25	13½	23	25
ASDA	100	9	12	14	3	5	6½
(*105½)	110	4½	7½	9	8	10	11
Boots	600	41½	51½	59	8½	16½	22½
(*620½)	650	14	24½	33½	31½	42	47½
Br Airways	500	37	46½	52½	9	19	21
(*524)	550	11	20½	28	33½	43	46½
BP	500	38	48	52½	5½	11	14½
(*532)	550	10	21	27	28½	34	38½
Br Steel	160	17	21	21½	2½	7½	9½
(*172½)	180	6	10	11½	11½	18	20
C & W	420	43	51	59	6	14½	17
(*451½)	460	19	29	37	21½	31	34½
CU	600	30	41½	48	22	29	37½
(*615½)	650	7½	19½	27	55½	60½	67½
ICI	800	47	60½	70	19	26	37
(*835½)	850	18	35	44½	46	52	62½
Kingfshr	500	41	47½	56	10	17½	22½
(*529)	550	13	23	31½	36½	44	48½
Land Sec	600	34	40½	44	6½	18	21
(*620)	650	8	14	19	32½	47½	50
M & S	420	24½	30½	36	7½	14½	17½
(*432½)	460	6	11½	17	30½	37	39
Nat West	650	28	45	52	24	32½	40½
(*666)	700	9½	23½	31	57	62½	70
Sainsbury	390	17½	22½	29	11½	19	22
(*391)	420	5½	10½	16½	31	38	41
Shell	850	25	34	40½	25½	31	38
(*857½)	900	6	15	23	61½	65	69½
Smkl Bch	700	46½	62	72	11	19½	25½
(*731½)	750	19	34½	45	35	43	48½
Storehse	280	27½	34½	37	4	8½	11
(*299)	300	15	23	26	11	16½	19½
Trafalgar	30	6	8	9	3	4½	5½
(*33½)	35	3½	6	7	5½	7½	8½
Unilever	1300	66½	80½	100	17	27½	29½
(*1347½)	1350	32	49½	69	40	50½	51½
Zeneca	1250	60½	92½	109	40½	54½	62½
(*1275½)	1300	38½	67½	84	68	81½	88
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	21½	34½	44	3½	10	16
(*437)	460	2½	14½	24	25	30	30½
Ladbroke	160	10½	18	24½	3	11	15½
(*168½)	180	1½	10	16	14	23	26½
Utd Bisc	240	9½	15½	22	4	12½	16
(*244½)	260	2	7	14	16½	26	28½

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	460	35	43½	50	5	11½	14
(*485)	500	11½	20½	28½	22	29½	32½
Thames W	500	54½	62	64½	2½	11	14
(*546½)	550	18½	29½	33½	17	32½	36
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	35	43½	52	2	15	29½
(*581½)	600	6½	18	28½	22½	42	52
BTR	300	30	32	34½	0	4	6
(*329)	330	5	10½	16	5	16½	19
Br Aero	850	48	69½	93	6	24½	39½
(*890)	900	16	42½	66½	24½	47½	59
Br Telecm	330	31	38½	44	0	2½	7½
(*359½)	360	7	18	23½	6	12	19½
Cadbury	500	44½	51	62	1	12½	17½
(*542)	550	8½	22	34½	15½	35	40½
Guinness	420	40½	46	50½	0	6	10
(*459)	460	8½	19	26	8	22½	26½
GEC	360	9	20½	26½	5½	13	20
(*365)	390	0½	7½	15	27	30	38
Hanson	191	7½	–	–	3	–	–
(*194)	211	1	–	–	17	–	–
LASMO	160	8½	13½	18½	2½	6½	8
(*166)	190	1	5½	10	14½	17½	19½
Lucas	180	19	23½	28	0½	4	6½
(*198)	200	5	11½	16½	6	12	15
Pilkingtn	191	8	16	20½	2½	6½	10½
(*197)	210	0½	7½	11½	14	16½	21
Prudential	420	14½	23½	34½	5	20	26
(*428)	460	1	8½	16½	32	40	50½
Redland	390	17½	28½	34	3½	10½	21½
(*403)	420	3½	13½	20	19½	34	38½
R-Royce	200	10½	16	21½	2	8	11
(*208½)	220	1	7½	12½	13	21	22
Tesco	280	15½	22	26	1½	8½	11½
(*292½)	300	4	11½	16	10	19	22
Vodafone	220	19	27	32	1	6½	11
(*237½)	240	5½	15	21	8	15	20
Williams	330	17	24½	27½	1	9	11½
(*345)	360	1½	8½	13	15½	26½	28

FT-SE INDEX (*3753)

	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900
Calls						
Feb	120	76	39	16½	5	1
Mar	138½	101½	70	43½	25½	13½
Apr	149½	117	86	63	43	27½
May	166½	135	104½	81	58½	42
Jun	–	152	–	98½	–	60
Puts						
Feb	4½	11½	25½	55½	94	144
Mar	21½	34½	53	77½	111½	153
Apr	41	57½	76½	103	133½	168½
May	54	72	92	117½	145½	180
Jun	–	87	–	130½	–	192

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	600	20	31½	43	24½	33½	41½
(*602½)	650	4½	14	24½	63½	68	73½
Amstrad	180	14	22½	27	9	12	14½
(*186)	200	6	14	18	21	23½	29½
Barclays	750	51	61	73	9	20	30
(*793)	800	17½	35½	47	33	44½	54
Blue Circ	330	30	35	41	3	12½	15½
(*355)	360	11	18½	25½	14	27	30
Br Gas	220	21½	24½	29	3	8½	11½
(*237½)	240	8½	13½	18½	9½	19	21½
Dixons	390	32	44½	50½	5½	12	17½
(*413½)	420	14½	27½	34	16½	25	31½
Forte	343	9	13½	16½	5	6	9
(*345)	373	0½	4	6½	28	28	29
Tarmac	110	12	15½	18	2	5½	7½
(*119)	120	6	10	13	6	10	12
Hillsdwn	160	19½	20½	22	1	4½	7
(*177½)	180	5½	8½	11	7	14	17
Lonrho	200	11½	18½	23	4½	9	10½
(*210)	220	2	9½	13½	15½	19½	21
Sears	90	6½	8½	9½	1½	3½	4½
(*94½)	100	1½	3½	5	6½	9½	10½
Thorn	1600	102½	147	168½	14½	36½	55½
(*1672½)	1700	43½	89	112½	55	78	100
Tomkins	260	19½	27	31	3	7½	11½
(*274½)	280	7½	15½	19½	11	15	21
Lloyds TSB	332	13	18½	–	14	20	–
(*323)	352	4	8½	–	37½	40½	–
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	900	65	80½	95½	15½	24½	37½
(*953½)	950	32	52	67	37	48½	60
HSBC	1100	49½	74	92½	47	62½	77
(*1108½)	1150	26½	53	71½	78	92½	106
Reuter	600	37½	53½	66½	16	25½	32
(*620½)	650	14	29½	42½	43½	52	58
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	360	27½	35½	45½	12	20	26½
(*380)	390	11	21½	31½	29	36½	42½
	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Fisons	260	5	5½	–	0½	0½	–
(*265)	280	0	0	–	15	18	–
	Series	Feb	May		Feb	May	
Eastrn Gp	950	29½	42	–	0½	0	–
(*975)	1000	0½	0½	–	25	25	–
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	420	32	45½	49½	3½	12½	18
(*443½)	460	10	24½	29½	20½	32½	39½
Scot Pwr	360	26½	36	41	3	7	12½
(*381)	390	9	17½	23½	14½	19	26½

February 2, 1996 Tot: 35148 Call: 18301 Put: 16887 FT-SE Call: 5465 Put: 8395

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 66769	Mar 96	3763.0	3806.0	3755.0	3802.0	13881
	Jun 96	3775.0	3799.5	3775.0	3804.5	68
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3307	Mar 96				4170.0	0
	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 394503	Mar 96	93.90	93.92	93.88	93.89	5988
	Jun 96	94.12	94.15	94.10	94.12	14340
	Sep 96	94.12	94.15	94.09	94.11	9487
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96				94.83	0
	n/a					
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1110399	Mar 96	96.79	96.82	96.78	96.81	13923
	Jun 96	96.91	96.91	96.87	96.88	26245
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 144230	Mar 96	110-14	110-15	109-20	109-22	93866
	Jun 96	109-20	109-20	109-10	108-30	260
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.92	120.04	119.86	120.00	3235
	Jun 96	118.40	118.55	118.38	118.52	1057
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 248887	Mar 96	100.27	100.27	99.46	99.56	271342
	Jun 96	99.48	99.48	98.81	98.72	2098
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 24999	Mar 96	95.47	95.49	95.45	95.49	1201
	Jun 96	95.58	95.61	95.58	95.60	782
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 61437	Mar 96	98.16	98.19	98.06	98.09	7739
	Jun 96	98.10	98.14	97.93	97.95	8602
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 67756	Mar 96	112.46	112.82	112.00	112.12	47182
	Jun 96	111.70	112.20	111.70	111.61	2297

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6¾
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 6¼ Week fixed: 6⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 6¹⁄₁₆ ; 3 mth 6¹⁄₁₆ . Sell: 2 mth 6¹⁄₃₂ : 3 mth: 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	5⅞-5¹³⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:					
Interbank:	6¼-6⅛	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6
Overnight: open 6⅛. close 6⅛ .					
Local Authority Deps:	6¼	n/a	6⅛	6¹⁄₁₆	6
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6
Dollar CDs:	5.27	n/a	5.15	5.03	5.96
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁄₃₂	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6¹⁄₁₆-6

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £3,051m allotted: £800m: Bids: £98.50% received: 19%: Last week: £98.50% received: 56%: Avge rate: £6.0009% last wk £6.0090%: Next week: £800m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅛-5¼	5⅛-5¹⁄₁₆	5⅛-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	4-3
French Franc:	4⅝-4½	4⅝-4½	4⅝-4½	4⅝-4½	5-4
Swiss Franc:	1¹³⁄₁₆-1⅝	1¹³⁄₁₆-1⅝	1¾-1⅝	1¾-1⅝	2-1
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $416.50-417.00 Close: $414.90-415.40 High: $417.25-417.75
Low: $412.00-412.50 AM: $416.25 PM: $414.90

Krugerrand: $414.25-416.25 (£272.75-274.75)

Platinum: $429.25 (£282.40) Silver: $5.81 (£3.825) Palladium: $137.50 (£90.45)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for February 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5260-2.5365	2.5260-2.5292	½-¼pr	2-1½pr
Brussels	46.37-46.58	46.37-46.47	13-10pr	36-31pr
Copenhagen	8.7200-8.7640	8.7200-8.7420	1½-1¼pr	4½-3½pr
Dublin	0.9667-0.9701	0.9667-0.9693	11-8pr	28-25pr
Frankfurt	2.2560-2.2648	2.2560-2.2591	½-¼pr	1½-1¼pr
Lisbon	233.60-234.96	233.66-234.28	22-49ds	85-129ds
Madrid	189.85-190.82	189.87-190.16	36-46ds	116-133ds
Milan	2391.70-2408.90	2392.90-2396.90	6-8ds	19-21ds
Montreal	2.0828-2.0902	2.0859-2.0989	0.20-0.12pr	0.36-0.25pr
New York	1.5170-1.5212	1.5184-1.5194	0.12-0.10pr	0.34-0.31pr
Oslo	9.8450-9.8920	9.8450-9.8600	1-½pr	2½-1½pr
Paris	7.7410-7.7810	7.7410-7.7540	1½-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Stockholm	10.5430-10.6190	10.5530-10.5760	½-¾ds	½-¾ds
Tokyo	161.79-162.59	161.84-162.11	¾-½pr	2½-2¼pr
Vienna	15.86-15.92	15.86-15.88	½-¾ds	1½-1pr
Zurich	1.8498-1.8572	1.8515-1.8543	¾-½pr	2½-2pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3231-1.3239
Austria	10.46-10.47
Belgium (Com)	30.58-30.62
Canada	1.3730-1.3735
Denmark	5.7550-5.7580
France	5.1105-5.1115
Germany	1.4880-1.4889
Hong Kong	7.7315-7.7325
Ireland	1.5677-1.5692
Italy	1577.00-1577.80
Japan	106.74-106.83
Malaysia	2.5520-2.5530
Netherlands	1.6667-1.6672
Norway	6.4943-6.5019
Portugal	154.03-154.20
Singapore	1.4175-1.4185
Spain	125.18-125.26
Sweden	6.9470-6.9570
Switzerland	1.2200-1.2210

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5170-1.5196
Australia dollar	2.0071-2.0098
Bahrain dinar	0.5666-0.5780
Brazil real*	1.4848-1.4889
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7100-0.7200
Finland markka	6.8650-6.9810
Greece drachma	368.50-375.50
Hong Kong dollar	11.7287-11.7379
India rupee	55.19-56.14
Indonesia rupiah	3442.00-3510.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4500-0.4600
Malaysia ringgit	3.8714-3.8755
New Zealand dollar	2.2401-2.2432
Pakistan rupee	52.02 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6275-5.7535
Singapore dollar	2.1503-2.1233
S Africa rand (com)	5.4900-5.5920
U A E dirham	5.5100-5.6340

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	859	Land Secs	810
ASDA Gp	16,000	Legal & Gn	1,200
Abbey Ntl	3,200	Lloyds TSB	10,000
Allied Dom	2,600	Marks Spr	1,800
Argos	104	NatWst Bk	1,700
Argyll Gp	4,700	Nat Grid	66,000
AB Foods	383	Nat Power	3,600
BAA	4,100	P & O	2,800
BAT Inds	2,800	Pearson	891
BOC	1,200	Pilkington	9,000
BP	5,100	PowerGen	2,300
BSkyB	2,400	Prudential	8,600
BTR	5,900	REXAM	1,500
BT	13,000	RMC	427
Bk of Scot	1,800	RTZ	5,600
Barclays	1,400	Rank Org	2,300
Bass	2,300	Reckitt Col	334
Blue Circle	2,500	Redland	2,300
Boots	1,900	Reed Intl	1,400
BAe	1,200	Rentokil	940
BA	2,100	Reuters	1,100
Brit Gas	6,200	Rolls Royce	18,000
Brit Steel	5,200	Royal Ins	643
Burmah Cstl	35	Ryl Bk Scot	1,800
Burton	1,500	Sainsbury	4,700
Cable Wire	5,600	Schroders	55
Cadbury	1,400	Scot & New	5,900
Carlton Cms	1,700	Scot Power	3,300
Cm Union	3,700	Svrn Trent	370
Cookson	1,900	Shell Trans	3,700
Courtaulds	664	Siebe	1,000
Dixons	3,300	SmKl Bch	2,100
Enterpr Oil	570	Smith Nph	1,200
For & Col IT	731	Smiths Inds	483
GKN	1,000	Sthern Elec	137
GRE	3,600	Std Chartd	5,000
GUS	714	Sun Allnce	790
Gen Acc	1,200	TI Gp	4,000
Gen Elec	4,800	Tate & Lyle	1,500
Glaxo Well	4,600	Tesco	10,000
Granada	3,500	Thames W	1,600
Grand Met	5,400	Thrn EMI	209
Greenalls	479	Tomkins	3,800
Guinness	2,600	Unilever	1,200
HSBC	4,000	United Utils	1,100
Hanson	28,000	Vodafone	11,000
ICI	1,600	Whitbread	1,500
Kingfisher	1,200	Wlms Hld	1,300
LASMO	9,200	Wolseley	1,400
Ladbroke	5,000	Zeneca	4,600

WALL STREET

	Feb 2 midday	Feb 1 close
AMP Inc	39	38¾
AMR Corp	77½	77
AT & T	65	66¼
Abbott Labs	43½	43
Advanced Micro	20¼	20¾
Aetna Life	74½	74¼
Ahmanson (HF)	23½	23¾
Air Prod & Chem	52½	53¼
AirTouch Comm	29½	29½
Alberto-Culver B	35½	36
Albertson's	34½	35¼
Alcan Aluminm	32½	32½
Alco Standard	39½	40½
Allied Signal	51¼	50½
Alum Co of Amr	56½	54¼
Amax Gold Inc	9¼	9¼
Amerada Hess	54¼	55½
Amer Brands	45½	45½
Amer-El Power	43½	44¼
Amer Express	45½	44½
Amer Genl Corp	36½	37½
Amer Home Pr	102½	102½
Amer Intl	95½	95½
Amer Stores	25½	25½
Amer Standard	29½	29½
Ameritech	60½	59½
Amoco	71¼	71½
Anheuser-Busch	69¼	68½
Apple Computer	28½	28½
Archer Daniels	19¼	19½
Armco	5½	5½
Armstrng Wrld	59½	60
Asarco	32½	32½
Ashland Oil	37	37
Atl Richfield	114½	115½
Auto Data Pro	40½	39½
Avery Dennison	52½	53½
Avon Products	80½	79½
Baker Hughes	25½	25½
Baltim Gas & El	28½	28½
Banc One	36½	37½
BankAmerica	67½	66½
Bank of NY	50½	50½
Bankers Tr NY	64½	64½
Barnett Banks	58½	58½
Bausch & Lomb	39½	39½
Baxter Intl	41¼	45
Becton Dickinsn	84½	85
Bell Atlantic	69½	69
Bell Industries	23½	22½
BellSouth	42½	42½
Black & Decker	32½	32½
Block (H&R)	37½	37½
Boeing	78½	77½
Boise Cascade	38½	39½
Bristol Myrs Sq	87½	88½
Browning Ferris	29½	29½
Brunswick	22½	22½
Burlington Nthn	81	81½
CNA Financial	112½	111½
CPC Intl	72½	73
CSX	48	48½
Campbell Soup	63¼	63½
Can Pacific	19¼	19½
Cptl Cities ABC	126½	126½
Carolina Pwr	37	36½
Caterpillar	63¼	64½
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	44¼	44½
Chase Manhat	68	67½
Chemical Bk	65½	65½
Chevron Corp	53½	53½
Chrysler	58	58½
Chubb Corp	98½	100½
Cigna Corp	114½	115½
Citicorp	74¼	74
Clorox	82½	83½
Coastal Corp	38½	38½
Coca Cola	75½	75½
Colgate-Palmolive	72½	73½
Columbia Gas	43½	43½
ColumbiaHCA	54½	54½
Compaq Comp	47½	47½
Comp Ass Intl	69½	70½
Conagra	45½	45½
Conrail	70½	70½
Cons Edison	32½	33½
Cons Nat Gas	45½	45
Cooper Inds	37½	37½
CoreStates	40½	40½
Corning Inc	31¼	31½
Crown Cork	40½	41½
Dana Corp	33	33½
Dayton Hudson	75½	75½
Deere	37½	37½
Delta Air Lines	71½	70
Deluxe Corp	29½	29½
Digital Equip	72½	73
Dillard Dept St	29½	29½
Disney (Walt)	62	62½
Dominion Res	42	42½
Donnelley (RR)	36½	36½
Dover Corp	45	44½
Dow Chemical	74	74½
Dow Jones	38½	39½
Dresser	25½	26
Duke Power	49½	49½
Dun & Bradstreet	64½	65½
Du Pont	77½	78½
Eastman Chem	66½	66½

	Feb 2 midday	Feb 1 close
Eastman Kodak	72½	73½
Eaton Corp	56¼	57½
Emerson Elec	84¼	83½
Engelhard Corp	23½	24¼
Enron Corp	36¼	36½
Entergy	29½	29½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	81¼	81¼
FMC Corp	72½	72½
FPL Group	45½	46¼
Federal Express	76½	75½
Fed Nat Mtge	33½	33½
First Interstate	156½	154½
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Finl Grp	39½	39½
Fluor Corp	66½	66½
Ford Motor	30½	30½
GTE Corp	46½	45½
Gannett	63½	63½
Gap Inc Del	47½	47½
Gen Dynamics	58½	58½
Gen Electric	77½	77
Gen Mills	56½	57½
Gen Motors	53½	53½
Gen Reinsurance	150	150½
Gen Signal	34½	34½
Genuine Parts	43½	44½
Georgia Pac	72½	72½
Gillette	54½	54½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	29½	28½
Goodrich (BF)	73½	74½
Goodyear Tire	47½	48
Grace (W&R)	67½	61½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23½	23½
Great Wstn Fin	23½	23½
Halliburton	51½	51½
Harcourt General	38½	38½
Heinz (HJ)	34½	34½
Hercules	56½	56½
Hershey Foods	69½	69½
Hewlett Packard	86½	87½
Hilton Hotels	75½	75½
Home Depot	45½	46½
Homestake Mng	19½	19½
Honeywell	51½	51½
Household Intl	63½	64½
Houston Inds	24½	24½
Humana	27½	28
ITT Corp	55	55½
Illinois Tool	61½	61½
Illinova	29½	29½
INCO	35½	34½
Ingersoll Rand	39½	39½
Inland Steel	28½	29½
Intel Corp	57	56½
IBM	109	109
Intl Flav & Fr	48½	49½
Intl Paper	40½	41½
James River Va	25½	25½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	96½	94½
Kellogg	76½	76½
Kerr-McGee	64½	64½
Kimberly-Clark	80½	79½
Kmart	7½	6½
Knight-Ridder	66½	66½
Lilly (Eli)	58½	57½
Limited Inc	16½	16½
Lincoln Nat	52	52
Litton	49½	48½
Liz Claiborne	31	29½
Lockheed Martin	75½	75
Louisiana Pac	25½	25½
MCI Comm	28½	29½
Marriott Int	44½	44½
Marsh & McLnn	90½	90½
Masco Corp	28½	29
May Dept St	44½	44½
Maytag Corp	19½	19½
McDonalds	50½	50
McDonnell D	89½	89½
McGraw Hill	88½	89½
Mead Corp	54½	55½
Medtronic	56½	57
Mellon Bk	52½	52½
Melville Corp	29½	29½
Merck Inc	67½	69½
Merrill Lynch	57½	57½
Microsoft	93½	94½
Minnesota Mine	66½	65½
Mobil Corp	111½	111½
Monsanto	131½	131½
Morgan (JP)	81½	81½
Motorola Inc	55½	56
Natl Semi	17½	17½
Natl Service Ind	34	34½
Navistar Intl	9½	9½
NY Times A	28½	29
Newmont Mng	58½	58½
Niag Mohawk	8½	9½
Nike B	67½	67½
NL Industries	14½	14½
Noram Energy	8½	8½
Nordstrom	39½	39½
Norfolk Sthrn	77½	77½
Nthn State Pwr	51½	51½
Norwest Corp	34½	34
Nynex Corp	54	53½
Occidental Pet	22½	22½
Ohio Edison	23½	23½
Oracle	48	47½

	Feb 2 midday	Feb 1 close
Oryx Energy Co	13¾	13¾
Owens Corning	44½	44½
PHH Corp	50½	50½
PPG Industries	46	46¾
PNC Bank	29½	30
PP&L Res	25¼	25½
Paccar Inc	49½	49¾
Pacificorp	20½	21
Pac Enterprises	28	28½
Pac Gas & Elect	27½	27½
Pac Telesis	30½	29½
Pall Corp	28½	27¾
Panhandle East	29½	29
Parker Hannifin	34½	34¾
Peco Energy	30½	31
Penney (JC)	47½	48½
Pennzoil	40½	40½
Pepsico	60½	60½
Pfizer	68½	68½
Pharm & Upjhn	41½	41½
Phelps Dodge	64½	64
Philip Morris	93½	93¾
Phillips Pet	33½	33½
Pitney Bowes	45½	45¾
Polaroid	45½	45¾
PriceCostco	16½	16½
Procter & Gmbl	83	83½
Providian	43½	43¾
Pub Serv E & G	31½	31½
Quaker Oats	34½	34
Ralston Purina	62½	64
Raychem Corp	66½	66½
Raytheon	48½	48½
Reebok Intl	26½	26½
Reynolds Metals	54	52½
Rockwell Intl	58½	59½
Rohm & Haas	69½	70½
Royal Dutch	141½	140½
Rubbermaid	28	28½
SBC Comms	57½	57½
Safeco Corp	35½	34½
St Paul's Cos	56½	57½
Salomon Inc	37½	37½
Sara Lee Corp	33½	33½
Scecorp	18½	18½
Schering Plough	55½	55½
Schlumberger	71½	71½
Seagram	36½	36½
Sears Roebuck	41½	41½
Shell Trans	80½	79½
Sherwin Wlms	42½	42½
Skyline Corp	20½	20½
Snap-On-Tools	44½	44½
Southern Co	24½	24½
Sprint Corp	42½	43½
Stanley Works	52	52½
Sun Company	27½	27½
Sun Microsys	46½	45½
Suntrust	69½	69½
Supervalu	30½	31
Sysco Corp	31½	31½
TRW Inc	84½	84½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	9½	9½
Tandy Corp	40½	39½
Teledyne	25½	25½
Temple Inland	42½	43½
Tenneco	51½	51½
Texaco	81½	82½
Texas Inst	47½	47
Texas Utilities	40½	41
Textron	78½	78½
Time Warner	41½	41½
Times-Mirror A	32½	32½
Timken	44½	44½
Torchmark	47½	47½
Toys R Us	23½	23½
Transamerica	74½	75½
Travelers	64½	64½
Tribune	64½	64½
Tyco Labs	35½	35½
UST Inc	33½	33½
UAL	159½	159
US Inds	18½	18½
USX Marathon	19½	19½
Unicom	33½	33½
Unilever NV	143½	144½
Union Camp	49½	50½
Union Carbide	43	42½
Union Pacific	66½	66½
Unisys Corp	7½	7½
USAir Group	15	14½
USF&G Corp	16½	16½
US Life	32	32½
United Tech	100½	101½
Unocal Corp	30½	30½
VF Corp	50½	50½
WMX Tech	29½	29½
Wal-Mart Stores	21½	21½
Warner-Lambert	93½	93½
Wells Fargo	237½	235½
Westinghouse El	20½	20½
Weyerhaeuser	45½	45½
Whirlpool	56½	57½
Whitman	22½	22½
Winn Dixie	35½	36½
Woolworth	11½	11½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	59½	60
Xerox	125½	125½
Yellow Corp	12½	12½

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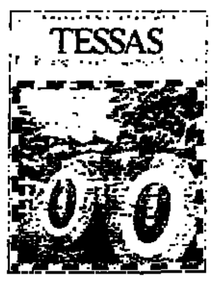
RE-EMERGING 37

Investors begin to look East once again

WEEKEND MONEY

TESSA TIME

The second Weekend Money special guide



Alliance chief urges patience over flotation

Anne Ashworth says investors must wait to see how they will benefit from the free shares

Patience is a quality that will now be required from each of the three million members of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society. Although they are all eager to know how much they will receive when the society floats on the stock market in mid 1977, their curiosity must remain unsatisfied until the autumn.

Peter White, the society's chief executive, has pledged that he will not disclose the exact terms of the free share distribution until the deal has been approved by the Building Societies Commission.

This means that savers and borrowers cannot discover whether the society plans a Halifax-style deal, involving a basic distribution to all members, plus an extra variable distribution for some savers with more than £1,000 invested. Though it has been suggested the society could have in mind a basic distribution only, giving all qualifying borrowers and savers the same amount of shares, Mr White would not comment on this, or any permutation.

He explains that he does not wish to raise false hopes among customers, citing the discontent that arose among Cheltenham & Gloucester members after a High Court ruling which disqualified 384,000 borrowers and 100,000 savers from the £1.8 billion payout.

In spite of Mr White's vow of silence, a few small details have been made available. Only borrowers and share account holders who were on the Alliance & Leicester books at December 31, 1995, will be entitled to free shares. They must remain with the society until the flotation and its conversion to a bank.

In a significant concession, setting the Alliance & Leicester apart from other flotations, those share account holders who had balances of less than £100 at December 31, 1995, will be allowed to replenish their accounts up to the £100 limit, so qualifying for a vote and free shares. They must put the money into the account 56 days before the voting date.

The society says that, so long as they act by the summer, they should be ensured of their share of the windfall. If somehow they fail to do so (an expensive mistake), they will be entitled to the statutory cash bonus which will also be on offer to children.

The booklet now being sent to all Alliance & Leicester members sets out no fewer than 45 main share accounts, including the Bonus 90, Bonus 180, Instant Access, Keysaver, Midas and Tessa. The society points out that certain old share accounts dating back to the days before the merger of the Alliance with the Leicester in 1985 do not appear on the list but still qualify for free shares. In the past, the Alliance & Leicester was famed for the speed in which it launched and then withdrew accounts confusing many customers.

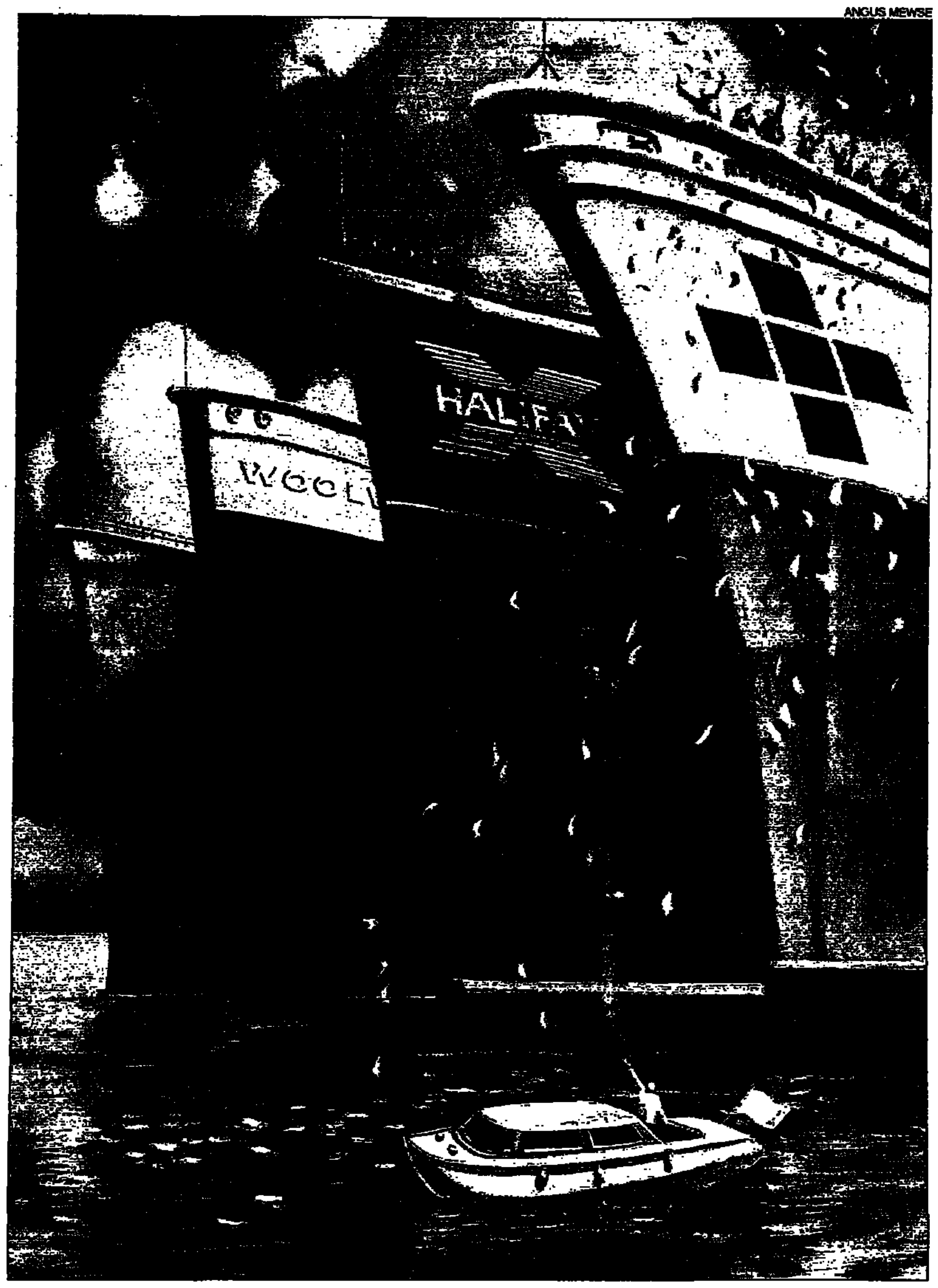
Like depositers with the Halifax and the Woolwich, the million or more Alliance & Leicester customers who have only a deposit-type account and are not borrowers are not eligible to vote and will not qualify for the free shares or a cash payment.

Alliance & Leicester deposit accounts (another lengthy list) include the Prime Deposit, Keyway and the Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Accounts.

This last piece of news will come as a blow to the 1.3 million holders of this accounts and the other Girobank customers who may have presumed themselves to have a relationship with the society.

Aware of the controversy, Mr White and his fellow executives say one aim of the flotation is to give equal status to all the group's customers, members and non-members. But this is unlikely to pacify the Girobank customers.

Alliance & Leicester members information office 0345 221144



ANGUS MEWSE

Woolwich woes are mounting

The rising tide of frustration with the Woolwich continues this week with more complaints from readers about their treatment under the terms of the flotation. Some are angry at the length of time to the float that is not scheduled to take place until the end of 1997, while one reader, Lord Coleraine, a solicitor, who challenged the Abbey National during its flotation over the qualification of children for shares, questions the Woolwich's logic in making December 31 the cut-off date.

When announcing the society's plans, Peter Robinson, Woolwich managing director, accused the 30,000 people who had opened accounts in the three days prior to the announcement as "carpetbaggers".

Lord Coleraine cannot understand why these people should be penalised, whereas those who opened their accounts in December are not.

In a letter to the society he said: "You will understand as well as I do that the investors who joined your society in the first days of this year are no more carpetbaggers than those who joined in December, acting possibly on inside information, but certainly with a more sophisticated knowledge of the effect of section 5 and schedule 2 of the Building Societies Act 1986, than the man in the street, whom your managing director so roundly castigates. It would be interesting to know to what extent the membership of your society increased during December when compared with other months."

David Adams, another Woolwich saver from Solihull, is setting up a protest committee to try to get the society to act fairly.

He said: "I think if you have an account you ought to benefit from the shares, regardless of whether you have less than £100."

CAROLINE MERRELL

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

More homes will go as aid cuts bite

Lenders are using recent government cuts in state support for borrowers as a lever to speed the process of repossessing the homes of people already struggling to make mortgage payments, it emerged this week.

Housing advisers say more people will have their homes repossessed more quickly as the new regime starts to bite. The evidence is bearing out their fears of last year when the extent of the cuts became clear.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders says the number of households repossessed last year was higher than it might have been without income support cuts. It published figures this week showing 49,410 homes were repossessed last year, against 49,210 in 1994.

The National Council of Citizens' Advice Bureaux (Nacab) says its advisers are finding borrowers excluded from income support for mortgage payments under the new rules are coming under increasing pressure from lenders. Liz Phelps, Nacab's social policy officer said: "There is no clear pattern but we are seeing evidence with existing borrowers already in trouble that if income support is not being paid, this is the last straw. We are also seeing cases where borrowers cannot pay anything for eight weeks [before they qualify for income support] and lenders are threatening repossession".

Time to talk........... page 33

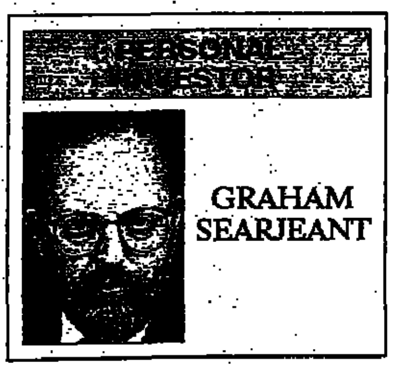
Phil Harris, adviser at the Colchester Mortgage Arrears Forum, said: "The first stage is those who are in the [arrears] pipeline now who are not able to maintain their mortgage payments. There will be a breakdown in cases where lenders are in long term negotiation because there cannot be any certainty among lenders that the mortgage will be paid." He added: "There will be a second stage where people with minor arrears become dependent on benefits long term and they don't qualify for income support. We are beginning to get the situation we anticipated".

Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, introduced cuts to income support for mortgage payments last October. They had a dual purpose: to cut the £1 billion annual bill for income support on mortgage payments and to persuade more people to take out private insurance, as part of the Conservative privatisation of the welfare state. Anyone taking out a new mortgage or remortgaging after October 1 1995 then losing their job or falling ill must wait nine months before getting state help with their mortgage. Those who already had loans before October 1 last year but claim after that date will get nothing for two months and only 50 per cent of their interest paid for the next four months. Income support for mortgage interest is now calculated at a standard rate of 8 per cent, rather than the actual rate borrowers are charged by lenders.

Housing advisers say the changes make it almost impossible for ill or out of work borrowers without savings to avoid getting into arrears before income support payments start.

SARA MCCONNELL

Veteran message for savers



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Each year, at about this time, Barclays de Zoete Wedd delivers a simple, powerful message to City investors. It is nearly always the same and applies to private investors too. Over the long term, you would have earned better returns from investing in company shares than in any other common financial asset such as building society deposits, gilt-edged or index-linked bonds. Unless you think something fundamental has changed, shares are likely to build up your long-term savings better in the future too.

The message is powerful because de Zoete, broker forerunner of BZW, started this annual report on past returns in 1956 and has taken many of the calculations back to 1918. If a tax-free fund invested £100 in equities in 1918 and re-invested all the dividends, it should now have an investment worth £617,000. In gilt-edged, the money would be worth £8,300 and if kept in cash (placed safely in the money markets) just £3,700.

The bulk of these increases are eaten up by inflation. Taking that out, equities still averaged an annual real rate of return of 7.8 per cent, gilt-edged 1.9 per cent and cash 1.5 per cent. Figures differ for other long periods but the comparison holds. When inflation was high, gilt-edged and cash failed to maintain their real value even with income rolled up.

Most private investors pay income tax. Even the return on equities derives mostly from their dividends, but allowing for income tax only brings down the returns. It does not alter the pattern. Since 1960, equities returned an annual 4.5 per cent in real terms with income rolled up after basic-rate income tax. That is a lot better than gilt-edged produced without deducting tax. A building society deposit with interest paid net produced minus 1.7 per cent.

No wonder marketing rivals and humble salesmen alike are prone to borrow BZW's charts and tables to plug any equity-based product. Why should anyone invest in anything else?

There are two reasons. Most investors are not trying to build the biggest possible capital fund over 25 years, let alone 77. The calculations are nothing like so simple if you need to get the best sustainable income in retirement, to keep money aside for an emergency or want to save over five years to buy a new car or put down a deposit on a house — for most recent decades a better home than any financial investment.

You do not get something for nothing in investment. There is a price to pay for equities' better performance: higher risk. Any standard-rate taxpayer freakishly unlucky enough to put their all into shares at the 1968 peak and sell at the end-1974 trough would have been left with £27 of purchasing power for every £100 invested. The inflation-ridden 1970s were bad for most investments, but over those six years it would have been far better to keep the money in a building society. Indeed, capital put into shares when they went too high in 1968 did not regain its buying power until 1993. Today, share prices look slightly above their long-term trend.

BZW points out, however, that investors have been paid handsomely for that risk. The more of the performance you can capture, and the more of the risk you can lay off, the more attractive shares become to build savings. The figures assume you spread the risk over many shares. The risk also falls the longer your time horizon. It probably outweighs the advantages over one year, rarely over 25. You avoid the 1968 trap if you invest a little each month, quarter or year. Investing a lump sum at one go is riskier. Sellers of unit-trust savings plans have also long trumpeted the useful quirk of "pound cost averaging". Your money buys more shares when prices are below trend than when they are toppy. To capture gains, avoid high charges, which plagued personal pensions, plough income back and use tax-free vehicles.

Regular savings using a low-cost personal equity plan or pension plan to invest in unit trusts still look hard to beat — if you are truly patient.

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Morag Preston finds owning a pony calls for a tight rein on costs

A suitable case for horse sense

Please, can I have a pony? Six words some parents must dread hearing, particularly since few children will take into account the high costs involved.

For most parents, the realisation that they will be the ones to end up braving the cold and mucking out the stable comes long before any consideration of cost. Financing the latest addition to the family is an expensive afterthought, however, but one that could offer the perfect opt-out clause.

"It's like running another car," says the British Horse Society, which has more than 65,000 members, of whom 90 per cent are female.

On top of the initial purchase price, anyone who owns a horse will have to think about upkeep, which includes bedding, feed, shoeing, routine vet care and insurance. According to Russell Baldwin & Bright, purveyor of horses, 1995 was their worst sales year.

The British Horse Society says: "Horses start at £500 for something a bit little and a bit old. A riding horse might cost £1,000. And a supercharger with a bit of oomph might cost £2,500."

The price of a horse depends on performance, breeding, height and age. A horse will always cost that bit more than a pony.

It costs as much, or even more to keep a bad pony as a good one, bearing in mind that a bad one will be difficult to resell. Buyers are advised to have the horse vetted, to take it home on trial, or to seek a second opinion, although the seller might not always agree. Some of the best horses are sold on by word of mouth, or are advertised in local equestrian magazines.

Excluding livery, the cost of keeping a horse is £170 a month, says the British Horse Society. "People think it's like keeping a dog, but they don't realise that horses need their feet seen to at least every six weeks, and you can't just feed them anything."

Full livery can cost as much as £70 a week, while half-livery costs between £30 and £50, where the owner is required to ride and perhaps groom the horse. If the owner sees to all the needs of the horse, it can cost between £10 and £20 for grass livery, with a further £10 for a stable.

Keeping a horse at home is only feasible where there is secure fencing and more than two acres of land, but this may work out cheaper in the long run.

Quality and simplicity are the key to buying equipment for a horse, but buying second-hand can cut costs by almost 50 per cent.

The price of tack varies enormously from £7 to £15 for a head collar to £350 to £450 for a new leather saddle.

It is always advisable to buy new yard equipment, including a first-aid and grooming kit, which will cost around £75. A hard hat, which costs between £30 and £55, is perhaps the most essential piece of any rider's equipment.

MALCOLM GANDERTON

Nearly a Tiz-was: Trudi Williams's pony Tizzy had a brush with death when it was let out of its field on to a foggy motorway

THE COSTS

Typical monthly budget	£
Bedding	20
Feed	12
Hay	3
Farrier	20
Wormer	3
Insurance	12
Routine vet care	25
Lessons	50
Extras for rider/horse	25
Total Cost (without livery)	170

Insurance pays for £900 veterinary fees

TRUDI WILLIAMS was in the news last December when her pony was let out of its field in Whitstable, Kent, along with two other horses, which were killed instantly on a foggy motorway. Tizzy, Ms Williams's six-year-old pony, was brought safely back to its field, but was forced to spend a week in Newham Veterinary Court Hospital with a fractured bone and severed tendons.

The vet's bill came to £900, which has already been settled through Petplan. "This is only the second year that Tizzy has been insured, and this is the second time that she has been to the vet," says Ms Williams, 21, who has owned Tizzy for four years. "I'm just relieved that I have insurance."

It costs Ms Williams £140 a year to insure Tizzy, who is worth £500. The policy includes death, theft, third party liability, personal accident, veterinary fees up to £2,000, and saddles and tack.

TAKE COVER

INSURING a horse and protecting your investment is an important cost factor that is too easily ignored. "When money is tight, insurance is one of the things that people cut back on," says the British Horse Society, which highlights the importance of public liabilty cover. "It's important in case your horse hits the side of a Mercedes or injures somebody when you are out on a ride. It happens — horses can be irrational."

Petplan, the largest equine insurance specialist in the United Kingdom, says that fewer than 50 per cent of horses and ponies are insured. "We have discovered that multiple owners are less likely to insure all their animals," the insurer says.

Petplan offers a range of cover, as well as tailor-made policies. Third party liability is relatively inexpensive, and is usually included in most insurance packages.

More than 80 per cent of insurance claims are for vet fees and they are the most important part of the cover, says Petplan.

Among the other big equine insurers are E&L Insurance and South Essex Insurance. Bankers Equine Direct, the only direct writer in the equestrian market, which claims to insure more than 15,000 riders, says: "Our biggest market is the riding club type of person who rides for pleasure, as opposed to high-risk eventing horses. Generally, they are insured for up to £15,000."

New policyholders will receive three months' free cover at E&L Insurance, which says: "Because of the massive steps forward where veterinary medicine is concerned, the veterinary fees for individual claims have tended to be higher."

Anyone seeking insurance cover for their horse should look for a policy that suits their particular needs, but also provides a reliable and efficient service.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

The correct line on running a lottery syndicate

By encouraging friends, family or work colleagues to play the National Lottery as part of a syndicate, you could increase your chances of winning tenfold. If you and nine friends put £1 in each week, you will have an equal share in ten sets of numbers. So if your group won a jackpot of £2 million, your share would be £200,000.

There have already been about 122 winning syndicates at jackpot or bonus level, according to Camelot, the organiser, which says 30 per cent of sales every week go to syndicates. But, unless you take the appropriate precautions, syndicates can turn the best of friends into the worst of enemies. This week, Weekend Money offers some timely advice.

Q How does a syndicate get started?

A Decide exactly who is going to take part in the syndicate, and appoint a manager. This person will be responsible for the running of the group, purchasing the tickets, and the collection, as well as the division, of any winnings. Then draw up a comprehensive agreement, which should be signed by a responsible witness or lawyer, and make a photocopy for every member. If the group changes, a new agreement should be drawn up.

Q What should the agreement include?

A The agreement should include the date and the signature of each group member. The appointed manager's name should also be noted, alongside his or her own signature. Make a record of how the numbers will be selected each week. Note how much each member will pay per week, and the corresponding percentage share of any prize. The agreement should also include a clause outlining what happens if a member forgets to pay. Members should also put in writing if they want publicity in the event of a big win.

Q How do you play in a group?

A There are two ways: weekly or as a multi-draw. To play weekly, the appointed manager should take the group's completed payslips to a National Lottery retailer and pay for them to be entered. A multi-draw allows the same numbers to be played every week for up to eight weeks. To ensure the choices are entered automatically for the chosen number of draws, the manager should tick the appropriate box in the column marked "Number of Draws" on the payslip.

Q How do you run a syndicate group?

A Whenever the manager collects the money, weekly or monthly, a record should be kept of who has paid what. After the manager has purchased the tickets, a photocopy should be made for each member and the originals kept in a safe place. The manager should write the syndicate members' names and addresss on the tickets. Any winnings should be collected and shared out according to the agreement.

Q What precautions can be taken by the company employing members of a syndicate?

A For less than the price of a National Lottery ticket, employers can protect themselves against financial loss after a sudden walkout by successful syndicate members. Fielding Mann, a Leeds insurance broker, has underwritten 220 policies since it set up in January last year, in association with Lloyd's of London, to meet the cost of drafting in new staff. Premiums start at £50, and the limit of indemnity is up to £300,000, or more on request. Only two syndicate members need to resign. Fielding Mann says 28 policies were signed at the last lottery rollover.

Fielding Mann: 0113 2390 330
Camelot: 0645 100000

MORAG PRESTON

Focus shifts from first-time buyers

Lenders change tack to court safer borrowers, writes **Sarah Jones**

The emphasis on discounts and remortgaging means that rates for first-time buyers are not what they used to be.

Patrick Bunton, of London & County, the firm of mortgage brokers, says: "It was always assumed that first-time buyer rates would be lower, but that distinction has now gone. Instead, you have to find a lender who will let you borrow as much money as you need."

First-time buyers are an unknown entity to mortgage lenders because they have no track record to offer. And just as direct insurance companies give large no-claims bonuses and avoid the statistically riskier young customers, so direct mortgage lenders, too, are careful to pick safe customers.

Their rates for borrowing 95 per cent of the cost of the property are uncompetitive, and their better rates have low maximum advances. One exception is First Direct's 6.95 per cent variable rate for a 95 per cent loan.

Similarly, some of the best fixed and discount rates have low maximum advances. The Hinckley & Rugby 0.5 per cent one-year fixed rate has a maximum advance of 70 per cent, as does the National Counties 1.5 per cent discount for five years.

So where can a first-time buyer find a good rate? It tends to be very expensive to borrow the total value of your property. The Bank of Scotland does offer a 100 per cent loan — but at a variable rate of 7.99 per cent. It would be better to take a cheaper 95 per cent advance, borrowing the remaining 5 per cent from elsewhere.

If income is tight and a borrower needs to budget, London & Country suggests the Northern Rock's five-year fixed rate of 6.99 per cent. With that solution, even if rates shoot up after the next general election, mortgage payments will remain the same.

If a borrower can be more flexible, the Coventry's 1.25 per cent discount off base rate until 2000 is worth considering. It means lower payments than with the Northern Rock at the moment, but if interest rates go up, borrowers would need to be able to cope with higher payments.

Loan sum adds up to confusion

Along with compulsory building insurance, it seems that you now need a sound knowledge of algebra to get a good mortgage rate.

A *Times* reader recently asked Cheltenham & Gloucester, his mortgage lender, why the monthly payments he makes for his fixed-rate mortgage are being varied by the society. The lender's explanation is shown in the illustration.

$$\frac{A \times i \times (1+i)^n}{((1+i)^n-1) \times 12} - \frac{L \times i \times t}{12}$$

Lender's formula for Miras calculation

What the lender was trying to say is that Miras, mortgage relief, has been reduced twice since he took out his fixed-rate mortgage and that this will inevitably alter his repayments. Because he is on an "annual instalment review scheme", he did not immediately start paying the extra interest caused by Miras going down.

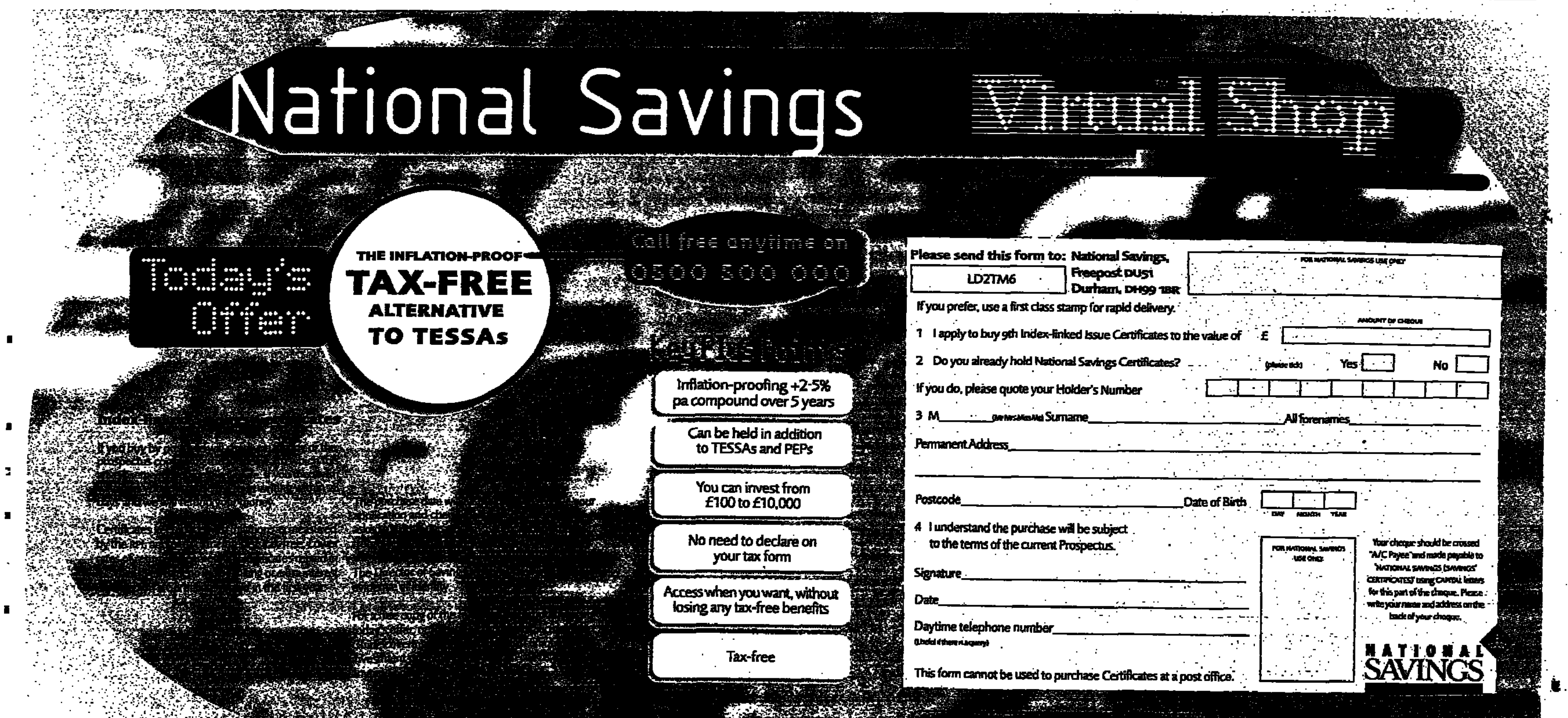
So, for a while, he was paying less than he was being charged. It was all rejigged at the end of the year and the extra interest he had yet to pay was slapped on to his statement, making the capital sum he owes appear greater than it was two years ago. They used the formula, above, to calculate his new repayment instalments.

"I happily now accept why my mortgage payment changed," says our reader. "I'm just bemused that my fixed rate is not fixed and the capital I owe is now greater than when I started, and it's all worked out by this extraordinary formula."

The lender did provide a key to the formula. A = balance of loan, i = interest rate, n = remaining term of years, L = limit of tax relief, and t = tax rate. Debi Isaac, of Cheltenham & Gloucester, said: "We used the formula to illustrate to him that he is paying the correct instalments. It may look ludicrous out of context but it makes sense within the full explanation our customer received."

Most mortgages come within the Miras (mortgage interest relief at source) scheme which allows you to pay a reduced level of interest to your lender. That currently means you pay 15 per cent less interest on the first £30,000 of your loan. The lender in turn claims the shortfall from the Inland Revenue. The relief was reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent in April 1994 and subsequently to 15 per cent last year.

SARAH JONES



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NATIONAL SAVINGS

Fitz would break the silence of the lambs

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

The bosses of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society have obviously been watching too many TV police dramas. After a surfeit of *Cracker*, they have become hooked on suspense and have come to believe that their customers share the same weakness.

Fitz, the bulky psychologist, embodied by Robbie Coltrane, would put them right, in a few blunt words. In real life, people prefer certainty.

When the Alliance & Leicester confirmed its plans to seek a stock market listing this week, few details were available. The all-important structure of the share distribution remains a secret. This means that no-one knows whether long-term savers with four-figure balances will receive a greater reward. Or whether every qualifying saver will be treated equally. The Alliance & Leicester's patronising refusal to elaborate on its plans contrasts markedly with the Halifax and the Woolwich, the other societies destined to become banks. Recognising their members' right to information, both outlined how they would divide the spoils.

Of course, no saver at either society yet knows how many free shares he will receive. But the terms are clear. The Alliance & Leicester, which has been seriously considering conversion for several years, has little excuse for being unspecific. It cannot argue that its scheme is still being drawn up, especially as it aspires to become a quoted company before its two rivals.

The society claims that it wishes to spare the three million members the pain suffered by those who were suddenly excluded from the Cheltenham & Gloucester payout. But it also has on its mind the already considerable discontent among the two million customers who cannot benefit, including the Girobank faithful. They maintain that the acquisition of Girobank gave the Alliance & Leicester the muscle to achieve its current position.

The Alliance & Leicester hopes it will lessen the offence given to this group if it stays silent for as long as possible about the size of the windfalls. It would be better to come clean now and offer those who cannot join in the fun a discount on the shares at the stock market debut.

Climate of fear

The financial habits of the nation are nowadays as frequently surveyed as those of the sexual sort. In the main, this money-management research tells you next-to-nothing that you did not already know. However, a report from the Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds (Autif) does give food for thought.

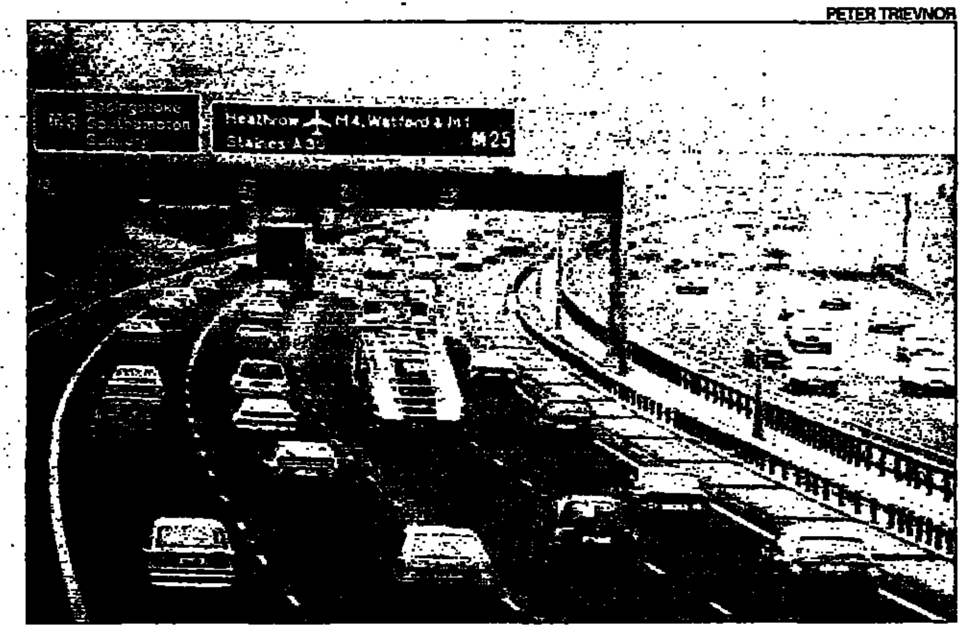
Callers to Autif's information service were quizzed on their plans for retirement. Among this group of people already interested in investment, more than half of those over 35 had no idea how they would fund their retirement. A lack of pension planning was most marked among all the women respondents.

This level of ignorance is alarming. It also shows that insurance companies and company pension schemes are failing to promote properly the need for retirement provision. One sad consequence of all the pension scandals seems to be that people are as fearful of the means of pension savings as of poverty in old age itself.

Highway robbery premiums

Marianne Curphey on the rise in motorway getaways

PETER TRIEVNOR



Heavy costs: living near a motorway makes transport easier — for thieves especially

Millions of people who live within easy reach of a motorway are at a greater than average risk of being burgled, research by insurance companies has shown.

Cities like Bristol, Birmingham and Oxford are popular with organised gangs who stage early morning raids and then drive back to London or other big cities to sell stolen goods in pubs and car boot sales in the afternoon.

Since their booty is sold on so quickly, it makes it more difficult for the police to trace.

The Association of British Insurers says towns on the borders of the M25 and with connections to the M3, M4, M11 and M40 are at risk, as are Scottish towns within easy reach of the North East of England. Royal Insurance, with one million UK motorists and 2.5 million homes on its books, said the problem is growing.

"In the old days criminals lived and burgled locally," said Roy Randall, head of communications. "Now the pattern is changing and they are travelling further afield, and areas close to motorways are bearing the brunt of this."

In addition, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Avon, the counties surrounding the M4 between London and Bristol, are notorious for computer chip theft. With the advent of new technology, insurers are now able to make very detailed assessments of your chance of being burgled. The Royal now uses a database to analyse risk by looking at postcodes, which breaks down areas into units as small as 15 houses.

"It is possible you could be paying less than your neighbours in the same street and the difference in premiums within one borough could be as much as 10 to 15 per cent. We have 1.6 million post codes on our database and we can identify, for example, whether your home backs on to a school playing field. If it does, it might carry a greater risk because of easy access for burglars," Mr Randall said.

Though it is difficult to find an average premium because rates vary so widely, for a Victorian three-bedroom detached house in a town like Reading, a 15 per cent difference in price could mean £22 more or less on a basic £150 buildings premium. The Royal also applies postcode ratings to the one million motorists it insures, since vehicle theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United Kingdom.

Direct Line, the direct insurers with 750,000 homes on its books, says analysing risk for buildings and structure as well as for household contents by using the full postcode and not just the borough, is becoming increasingly widespread.

"Though we do not use full postcodes in all areas, they are useful in places like London where some homes are built on hills and the clay soil underneath is very susceptible to subsidence in the hot weather. Likewise, a home close to a river is at greater risk of flooding than one three quarters of a mile away," it said.

New technology has also brought more sophisticated ways of detecting fraud. The Royal uses an image-processing system which can tell whether invoices or quotations for repair work have been tampered with in order to increase the claim.

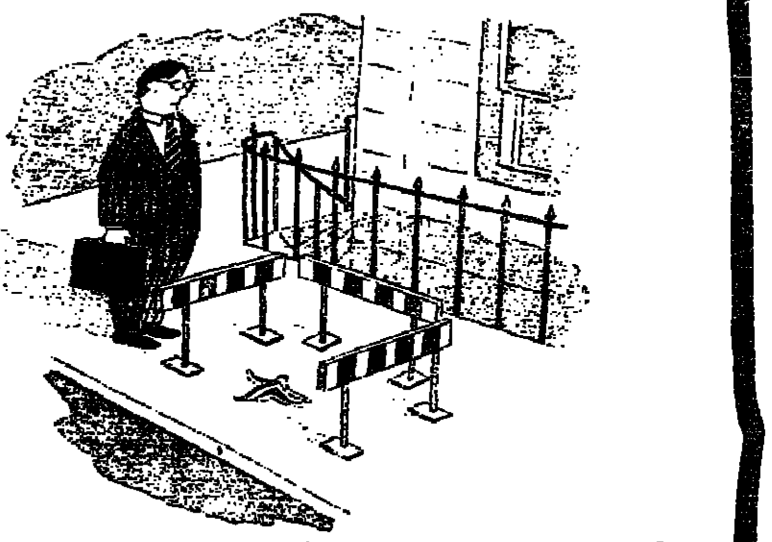
"Industry research has revealed one in four claims are fraudulent in some way, but by detecting fraud we can help to keep costs down and ensure innocent policy-holders are not paying for other people's dishonesty," Mr Randall says.

Insurance firms with large databases can track policyholders who make multiple claims, or spot patterns of claims.

The Royal gives a 5 per cent discount to householders who are members of a neighbourhood watch scheme, and a further 15 per cent if you fit a burglar alarm.

If you are prepared to haggle over the premium you are offered, and you are prepared to pay the first £100 to £500 of any claim, your insurance company may agree to reduce the fee in order to keep you as a customer.

TAX-FREE PEP



Even in the city, slip ups can so easily be avoided.

If you're not careful, those first steps into the tax-free savings world of PEP's can seem a trifle complex and, worse still, paved with hidden drains on your investment. But there is a simple way around the problem. The Scottish Investment Trust PEP.

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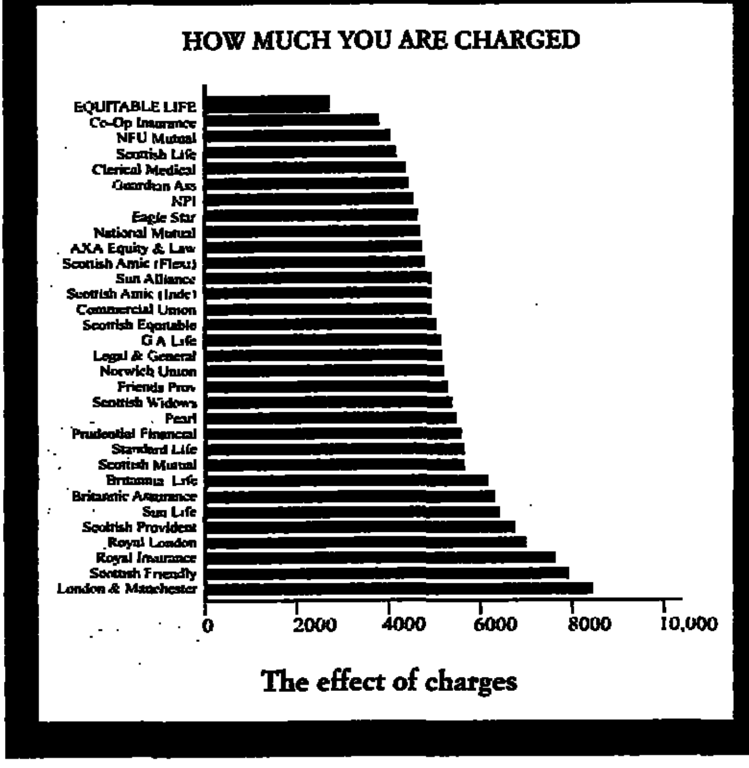

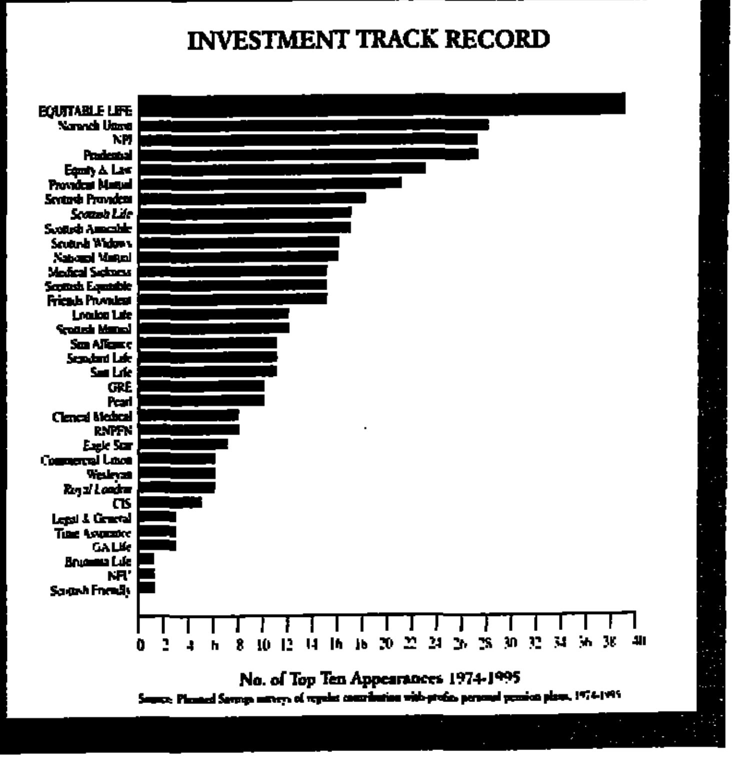

Choosing a personal pension plan is not an easy task. Superficially, many plans can look similar, so what factors should you consider when making your choice?

Price, performance and flexibility are perhaps the key indicators that will enable you to differentiate the wheat from the chaff.

PRICE

New rules came into force this year which require companies to disclose to potential buyers the cost of investments such as personal pension plans. Comparing the charges made by different companies can be quite revealing.

The chart above left compares the effect of the charges made by various companies to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £200 pm, 10 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plan. Source: Money Management, October 1995.

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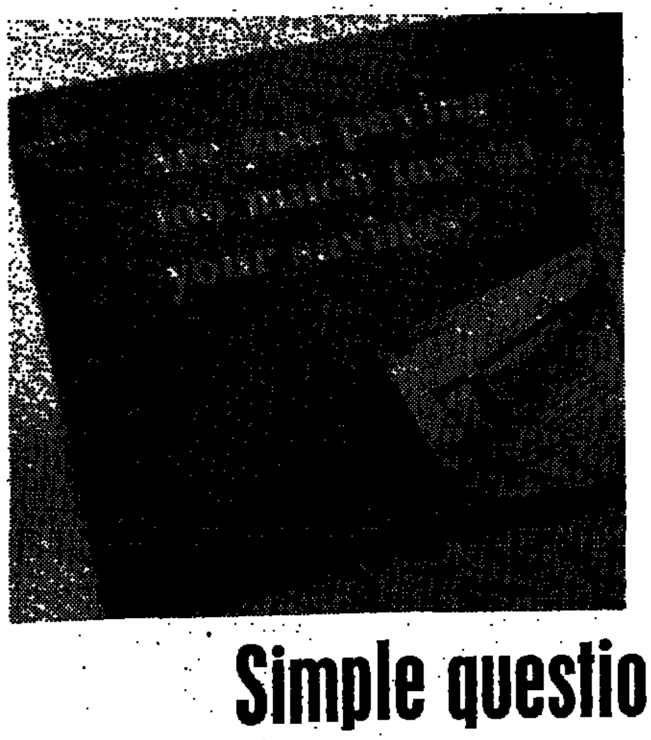

Simple question. But what's the answer?

If you've got savings then you're probably paying more tax than you need to – to give you some idea, the Inland Revenue generates around two billion pounds a year this way. Our booklet, written by independent journalists, takes you through some tax basics and explains how you can reduce tax through schemes such as Personal Equity Plans, TESSAs and personal pensions. It's available free of charge from any Midland branch or by calling us on 0800 65 65 65

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Marianne Curphey considers the rates now on offer from National Savings

Many happy returns for investors who played safe

In spite of the recent reduction in interest rates for National Savings certificates, thousands of savers will have a cause for celebration in the coming weeks. These are the people who invested in the 35th issue of fixed-rate certificates five years ago and locked into a rate of 9.35 per cent.

Their funds are maturing between now and the end of March. Though at the time the rate looked rather miserly, compared with the building society variable rates of up to 15 per cent, as interest rates fell it became increasingly attractive. Now every £1,000 invested has grown to £1,574 and the interest is tax-free and waiting to be collected.

National Savings products are backed by the Government and are regarded as a safe form of investment. They guarantee a return of your capital, plus varying rates of interest, depending on the type chosen. They are a huge source of revenue for the Government and contributed £2.8 billion to funding in the tax year to April 1995. This year that figure is expected to rise to £3 billion. Currently, 30 million people have National Savings products and their holdings are worth £54.5 billion.

One of the advantages of National Savings certificates is that they are tax-free — they compare favourably with most building society accounts, which take tax off before you receive interest. For higher rate taxpayers the tax advantages are even greater. Interest is added on to the value of your certificate, and you get it when you cash in the certificate.

Savers benefit from National Savings when the Treasury needs money and sets rates high. But rates are subject to political pressure and the Government has just announced it intends to reduce the interest rates, a move prompted by the fall in yields on gilts, which are fixed-interest stocks issued by the Government, and by the cut in the bank base rate.

Some changes will be immediate, others will come into force next month. So are the National Savings products still competitive, or would savers be best advised to look elsewhere?

PREMIUM BONDS

The £1 million Premium Bond jackpot has survived, but at the expense of the growing number of small payouts of £50 and £100. From May, the number of prizes will be limited to 350,000 a month and the interest rate on Premium Bond investments, used to fund prize money, will be cut from 5.2 to 4.75 per cent. National Savings says it has increased the size of prizes in response to customer demand.

FIXED RATES

■ **Savings certificates:** The 9th Index-linked Issue certificates are now on sale and offering a return of 2.5 per cent per annum compound on top of the rate of inflation, compared with the 8th Issue, which was pegged at 3 per cent and is no longer available. The minimum investment is £100, up to a maximum of £10,000, and must be held for five years. The new 43rd fixed rate issue will pay 5.35 per cent a year compound if held for five years, down half a point.

The latter is still a good investment, says David Wells of Binder Hamlyn, the independent financial adviser. "For a higher rate [40 per cent] taxpayer to match a 5.35 per cent tax-free rate, he or she would have to find an investment worth 8.92 per cent before tax. With the index-linked issue, if inflation remains at 3.2 per cent, the return after five years is 5.7 per cent, which to a higher rate taxpayer is worth 9.5 per cent. If inflation rises, this investment will give you an even better return."

He believes savers who can afford to take a five-year view should also be looking at investing in tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas — see the Weekend Money Guide with today's paper) and personal equity plans (Peps).

■ **Capital bonds:** These bonds, which have a minimum opening balance of £100, have fallen 1.1 points to 6.65 per cent compound, if held for five years. They are paid gross, but the interest is taxable. Likewise, rates on **Children's Bonus Bonds**, which are tax-free, have fallen 1.1 points to 6.75 per cent on investments between £25 and £1,000.

David Wells still believes the Children's Bonus Bonds are a good investment, as they remain the market leader.

■ **Pensioners guaranteed income bonds:** The new issue, Series 3, now pays gross, taxable interest of 7 per cent (down from 7.5 per cent) over five years. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broë describes these bonds as "ultra-guaranteed, but not very exciting". He says their worth depends on the direction of interest rates over the next five years — if they fall, then 7 per cent looks like a good deal.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, announced in his last Budget that the qualifying age for Pensioners Bonds was being reduced from 65 to 60. Anyone who wanted to take advantage of this and planned to transfer out of existing Income Bonds into Pensioners Bonds will still be allowed to buy into Series 2, with its rate of 7.5 per cent, provided their applications to do so were received by January 25.

■ **First option bonds:** These pay gross rates guaranteed for a year at a time. For investments of between £1,000 and £19,999 the rate is 6.25 per cent (down 0.15 of a point), while above £20,000 it has fallen 0.3 of a point to 6.5 per cent. Marion Coss, of Sedgwick Financial Services, says these bonds are an advantage to non-taxpayers because they remove the hassle of having to claim back tax already paid.

VARIABLE RATES

National Savings variable rates, meanwhile, look less competitive and poor in comparison with postal accounts from some of the building societies. From March 1, the **National Savings ordinary account** will pay 2.75 per cent (down 1 point) on balances of £500 to £10,000. Bristol & West's postal account, meanwhile, is paying 5.75 per cent gross on balances of more than £5,000.

After basic rate tax at 25 per cent this would be worth 4.3 per cent. However, come April savers will see tax on their interest drop to 20 per cent after measures to reward savers in the Budget. Northern Rock is currently paying 7.20 per cent gross on balances of £25,000 in its 120-day notice postal account.

Income bonds, which are a three-months' notice account paying gross interest, are now paying 0.25 per cent less interest. Between £2,000 and £24,000 the rate is 6.25 per cent, rising to 6.5 per cent for amounts between £25,000 and £250,000.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

National Savings products have always been safe and sound but are they still competitive?

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Find out why pension plans are not all the same.

Perhaps you think that all pension plans are the same. If you do, then you would be making a big mistake. Here are some of the reasons why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan.

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When it's good to talk

Sara McConnell explains the reasons for repossession and the easiest ways to avoid it

CHANNEL 4

Nowhere to go: the misery of homelessness as vividly portrayed in *Cathy Come Home*

Q **You miss a mortgage payment and your lender writes to you asking why. What do you do next?**

A You should reply to the letter, even if your instinctive reaction is to throw it in the bin and forget about it. If you ignore the first letter you will get another in about two weeks, asking what is going on, followed by a series of letters at approximately weekly intervals. The tone will become less concerned and more threatening. You will stop being addressed by your name and become Sir or Madam. The lender's solicitors will take over, threatening court action to repossess. The more problem lenders have making contact with you, the more aggressive they are likely to be in the long run. Keith Tondeur, director of Credit Action, the educational charity, says: "The best thing to do is get the lender on your side. You could even go so far as to warn it in advance if you hear there could be redundancies at your firm. The lender could suggest an adjustment of mortgage payments to help."

Q **The reason why you can't pay your mortgage is because you have lost your job. Where do you go from here?**

A You should sign on immediately for income support to help you with mortgage payments. Even if you have received a redundancy lump sum and so have too much money at the moment to qualify, signing on immediately could prevent delays in income support when you come to claim. You should be able to claim unemployment benefit. You will not qualify for income support if your married partner is still working, even though your mortgage was calculated using both your incomes. If you have private insurance to cover your loan, you should claim at once because you normally have to wait at least a month for a payout, and delays in claims delay payouts.

Q **Income support will pay you nothing for the first two months and then only 50 per cent of your interest for the next four, although you will get it eventually. How can you manage now?**

A This delay is bad news, particularly if you have few savings and your redundancy payment was small or non-existent. You will almost certainly slip further into arrears. Even if you have avoided your lender until now, you should start to negotiate. You can negotiate at any stage, even when you face a court hearing. You should also talk to your local Citizens Advice Bureau or your local authority debt advice service. If you have mortgage debts, you are probably having problems with other bills as well. Check you are claiming all the benefits to which you are entitled.

Q **You get a summons to the county court from the lender's solicitor. Is this the end?**

A Your arrears are rolling up and you are falling further behind with payments. But you can still negotiate with your lender. Contact the lender directly rather than the lender's solicitors. Before you get to court, try to contact the Citizens Advice Bureau's office at the court. It may be able to represent you and will try to get you a suspended possession order, allowing you to keep your home as long as you pay the amount set by the court for a certain period of time. The court does not have the power to dismiss the arrears or decide you can pay less than at least the mortgage you are meant to be paying. Alternatively, the judge can throw out the possession altogether (unlikely) or grant the lender repossession in 28 days.

Credit Action: 0800 591084.
Citizens Advice Bureau: see your local phone book.
Money Advice Association: 0171 236 3566.

A policy of response to criticism

Lenders and insurance companies are being forced to review the terms and costs of private insurance to cover mortgage payments after fierce criticism of existing policies. Last October's cuts in income support highlighted the inadequacies of policies which did not cover existing borrowers or the self-employed, did not pay out for up to six months and were too expensive for many borrowers on top of mortgage payments. Research, most recently on behalf of the Department of the Environment, found that two thirds of the claims made on mortgage payment protection policies were rejected.

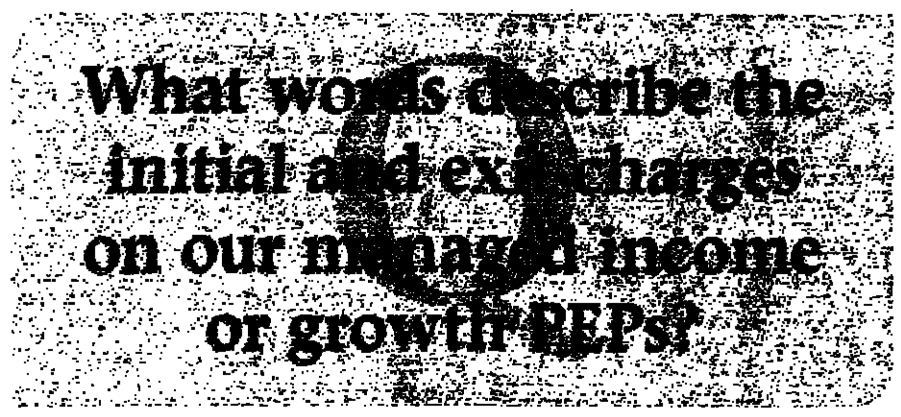
Now insurers say they are trying to make up for past failings. Steve Devine, strategic development manager of Pinnacle Insurance, which underwrites large numbers of policies for lenders, says: "One thing that's emerged out of all this is that insurers have a perception and image problem with the public. Insurers have to get their act together." The Association of British Insurers, the industry's trade body, has put together a code of practice under which companies should explain conditions and exclusions clearly to borrowers and commit themselves *to assessing claims promptly and efficiently*.

There is some evidence that cover and costs are adapting to the new regime. Two societies, the Skipton and the Market Harborough, now offer their existing and new borrowers free unemployment insurance for the term of the mortgage. The policy will pay the mortgage only to cover the nine-month gap until borrowers can claim income support. The Skipton policy will not start paying until a borrower has been unemployed for two months, while the Market Harborough will not pay out until one month is up. Both societies believe it benefits them as well as borrowers if they can avoid the costly process of repossessing homes and trying to sell them in a dead housing market.

According to Mr Devine, most lenders now offer existing borrowers cover as well as new borrowers. Some, including Lloyds Bank, Commercial Union, *Midland, General Accident, National & Provincial* and Birmingham Midshires, have portable policies for borrowers who have their mortgages with other lenders.

But critics of the policies say cover on most policies is still too restrictive. Self-employed or contract workers, for example, often have to demonstrate that their contracts have been renewed without a gap over a set period before they qualify. To claim, self-employed people may have to show that they have told the Inland Revenue that they have gone into liquidation.

SARA MCCONNELL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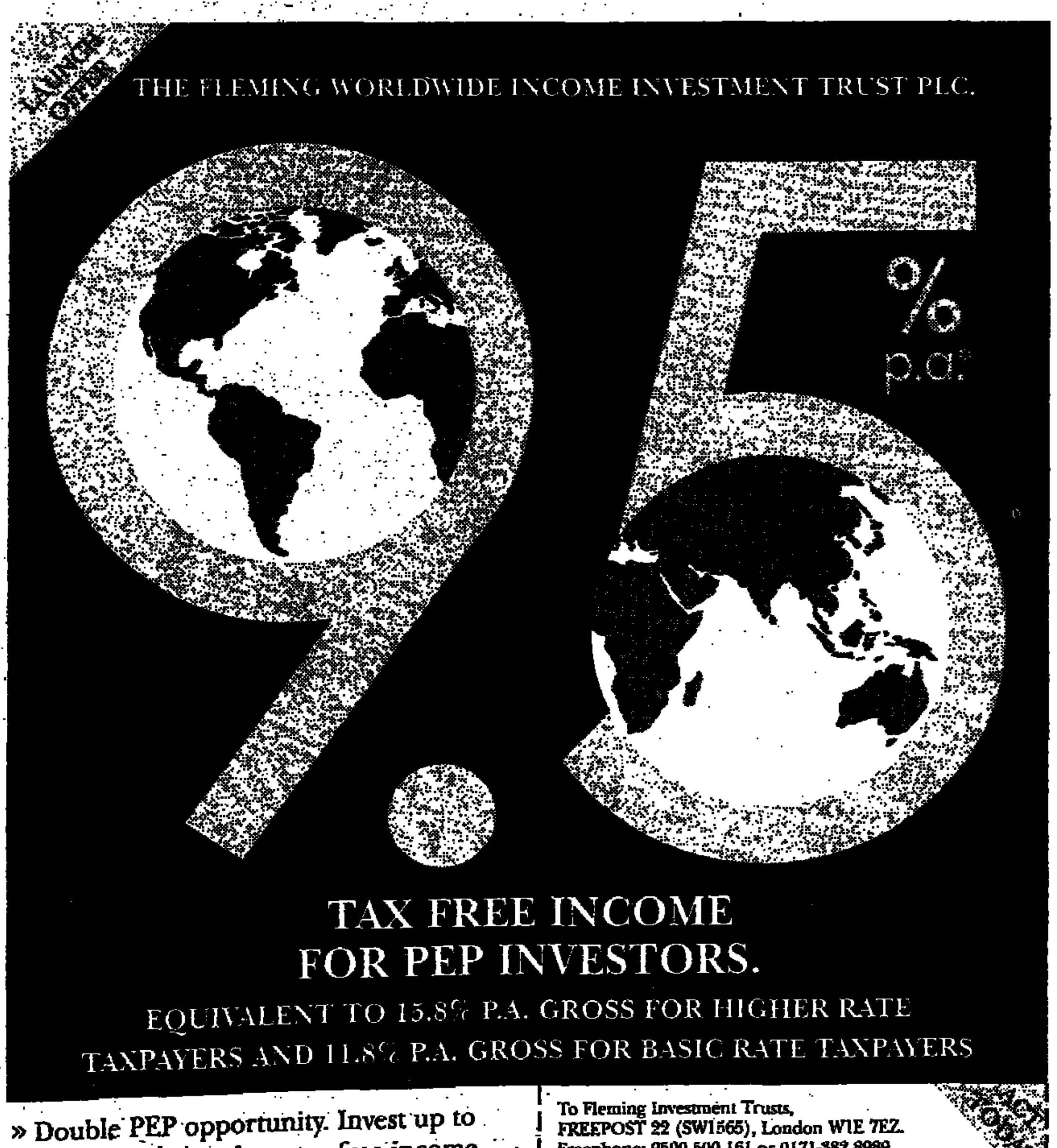
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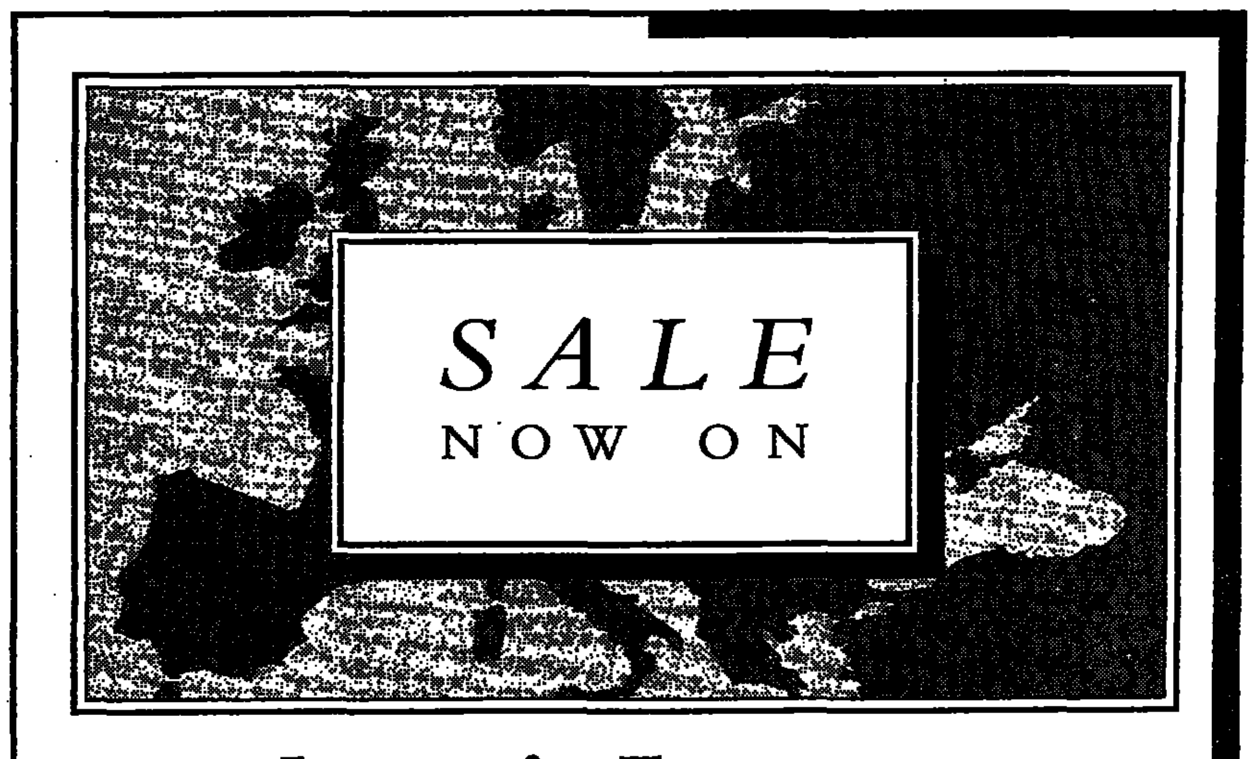

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Caroline Merrell on the shake-up of a trust group after more than 100 years

When investors have to cope with a break-up

The dismemberment of the River & Mercantile group, one of the UK's largest investment trust groups will bring to an end more than 100 years of association with the investment trust industry.

The management of the five-strong investment trust range, with about £370 million in assets from thousands of investors, is in the process of being auctioned off to pay for the expansion of the remaining business in other areas.

The holding company for the investment trusts, River & Mercantile Investment Management (RMIM), is spinning off the management to build up a new unit trust operation. Already, the income trust has gone to Jupiter and the American trust has been passed over to Henderson Touche Remnant. It is rumoured that River & Mercantile Trust itself is about to be snapped up by Robert Fleming, the investment bank.

The sharp change in direction of the group was precipitated by the acquisition last year of a 49.9 per cent stake in RMIM by John Beckwith, a property developer.

Mr Beckwith has an option to buy the remaining part of RMIM, which is owned by the £200 million River & Mercantile Trust. The trust is the jewel in the River & Mercantile crown and can trace its roots back to 1881, when William Gladstone was Prime Minister. It was set up to provide funds for the development of industry in Argentina.

Other investment trust managers are circling round to try to buy up the funds — either to increase their funds under management or to try to fill a gap in their fund range.

A change in fund manager does not need shareholder approval, only the board of the particular investment trust has to agree to the transfer. The seemingly less important action of changing a trust's name does need shareholder approval. It is a condition of the transfer that all five investment trusts change their names. So what can the thousands of investors with River & Mercantile expect under the new arrangements? This week, Henderson Touche Remnant announced that it had taken over the running of River & Mercantile's American fund. The fund will fill a gap in the Henderson Touche Remnant stable — it is unusual in not having a specialist American fund.

Gladstone was PM when River & Mercantile Trust was set up

James de Sausmarez, Henderson Touche Remnant Investment Funds managing director, said it would offer investors in the £28 million fund the opportunity to roll over investments into a new fund when the investment trust comes to the end of its life in three years.

The fund manager also pledged to reduce the discount on the split capital trust, which is currently around the 30 per cent mark. The fund will be managed by Christopher Galleymore, head of Henderson's North American team.

Mr de Sausmarez said: "North America has been a significant gap in our range of managed investment trusts and we are delighted that R&M have decided to join us and fill that gap."

Mr de Sausmarez said he would consult the shareholders about what form the new investment vehicle would take, adding that it would not necessarily be offering a split capital trust as the successor.

Mr Galleymore was optimistic about the prospects for the US market this year. He has managed to outperform S&P 500 index by 1 per cent a year over the past ten years.

The only change proposed for those invested in the River & Mercantile's £75 million extra income fund is a change of name. John Duffield, Jupiter chairman, said Jupiter was in the process of writing to shareholders to get approval for the name change. The shares in the fund are now trading more or less at par to net asset value.

Jupiter is taking Anthony Nutt, the investment trust manager, from River & Mercantile. Mr Duffield said: "There will be no change in the investment trust strategy." The wind-up date of the fund is in four years' time.

The fate of the remaining two trusts is yet to be decided. Hambro Magan, the merchant bank carrying out the auction, declined to comment on the progress of the sale of the two remaining funds. Guinness Flight is believed to be the lead contender for the management of the R&M Smaller Companies Trust.

The carve-up of the investment trust group has left many analysts baffled. After all, they point out, it is perfectly possible for investment trusts and unit trusts to coexist within the same fund management group. Perpetual, Schroder, M&G are just a few of the investment houses that run both types of fund.

Rob Robertson, Kleinwort Benson's investment trust analyst, said: "The whole thing could be seen as a revenue-raising exercise to fund expansion of the business."

There is a general consensus among analysts that the investment trust market is set for rationalisation. Funds trading at big discounts could be the target for fund managers looking to increase their funds under management. The attraction for investors is that they could benefit from a decrease in the discount.

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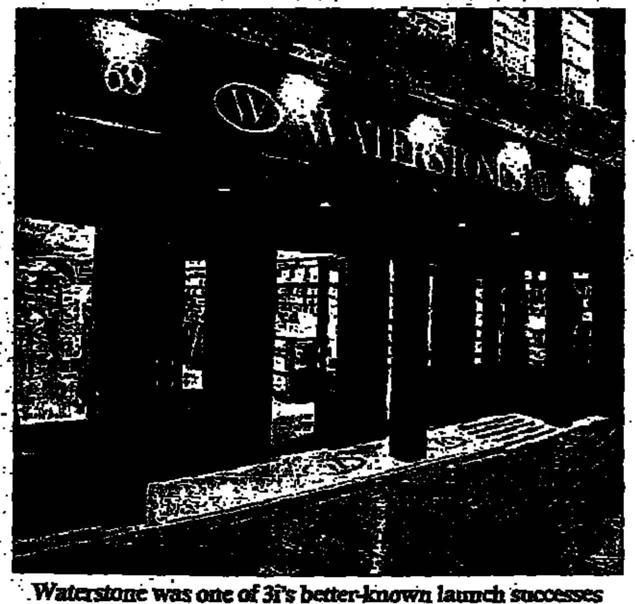
Adventure with a new 3i Pep



Waterstone was one of 3i's better-known launch successes

Investors can now have designs on Laura Ashley, thanks to 3i

The venture capital company, 3i, which brought Allders, Laura Ashley, Waterstones, Denby Pottery and Prontaprint to the stock market, is about to relaunch its own personal equity plan (Pep).

More than 500 private investors already hold the 3i group investment trust shares in a general Pep (it is not eligible for the single-company Pep) and most of them joined last July after a change in the rules under which trusts qualified as Pepable.

3i aims to invest in small unquoted companies with potential to grow and to lend them investment capital to expand. The company, once called Investors in Industry and established in 1945, invests more than £1 million every day and has supported more than 1,300 management buyouts and over 300 buy-ins.

Since its flotation in July 1994, the value of its shares has risen 53 per cent, while that of the FTSE all share index has risen 22 per cent. After coming to the stock market at 272p, its shares are now trading at about 411p, after reaching a high of 444p last November.

There is no initial charge to set up the new 3i Pep, but there is a management charge of 0.5 per cent each year and a 0.25 per cent levy on the value of shares bought or sold through the plan.

Recently, 3i shares have been edging lower. One of the reasons was Midland Bank's decision to sell 30.7 million shares, 5.3 per cent of 3i's share capital, worth £120 million.

So have we seen the best of the trust's growth, or is there more to come?

Iain Scouller, investment trust analyst with SBC Warburg, believes the shares are "pretty dull" and are unlikely to show much movement unless smaller companies in general are rerated in the market. He also suspects Barclays and the Royal Bank of Scotland may wish to follow Midland's example and sell their stakes, worth a combined 8 per cent of share capital, which would further depress prices.

His recommendations for those investors keen on smaller companies would be Invesco England and International; NatWest Smaller Companies and Hoare Govett Smaller Companies trusts.

Matthew Orr, of Killik & Co, the broker, says 3i has been "a tremendous success" since it was floated and has a very diverse portfolio. He believes there is room for smaller companies, which failed to match the strong growth of the FTSE 100 index of leading shares last year, to catch up in 1996.

"3i has a good geographical spread with offices around the country and, unlike many venture capital companies, can afford to be choosy about the enterprises it backs. I am bullish about the UK stock market this year because I believe interest rates and inflation will continue to fall, which will boost equities," he says.

However, for investors looking to invest in small companies, he also recommends the Invesco English and International trust (currently trading at 148p per share), and Montannoro UK Smaller Companies, a relatively unknown trust launched last year currently trading at a discount to net asset value. This means the shares are selling for less than the trust's underlying assets are worth and may indicate that they are a worthwhile purchase.)

Peter Walls, investment trust analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, says 3i shares are "not a bargain" for investors because they are still trading at a slight premium to their net asset value.

However, over the last 12 months the premium has come down from 14 per cent to around 4 per cent now.

He suggests that if investors do buy into a 3i Pep, they should be prepared to hold the shares for at least five years, possibly ten, to take full advantage of tax-free growth.

He says: "It is a solid but unexciting investment. Smaller companies may start to pick up in 1996 but will probably not do so well in 1997.

"In the context of the FTSE all share index I would rate the 3i investment trust as medium-to-low risk. If you are looking to buy into venture capital I would recommend Murray Ventures, which does larger and fewer deals than 3i.

"This trust's shares are currently trading at a 15 per cent discount to their net assets value and are likely to do better than 3i in the next couple of years."

Meanwhile Hill Samuel Asset Management is launching a UK emerging companies investment trust which will invest in about 40 quoted smaller companies, mostly with market capitalisation below £50 million (Market capitalisation is calculated by multiplying the share price by the number of shares in issue). Ordinary shares will be issued at 100p per share, with one free warrant for every five shares allotted.

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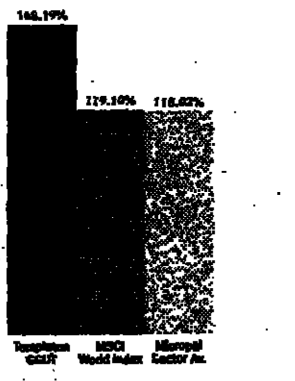

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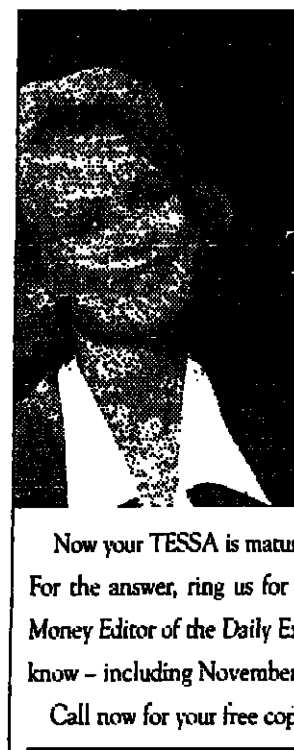

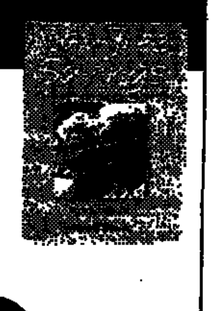

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Take a share in the profits

Clare Stewart tells shareholders what they need to know to get a bigger slice of the investment cake

Dividends are small payments that often make big news. In Granada's bitterly fought takeover of Forte, the hotel group, the special dividend payments promised to Forte shareholders was an important part of the package that helped to swing the vote in Granada's favour.

The level of dividend payouts made by the privatised utilities has also been in the spotlight, with electricity and water companies providing some of the best dividend returns in the stock market.

Q What is a dividend?

A Publicly quoted companies share part of their profits with shareholders by way of dividends. For each share held, a dividend of a specified amount is normally paid. The payments are usually in two stages. The first is made after the company announces its half-year or interim figures, with the final dividend figure given with full-year results. Shareholders vote on the proposed payouts at the company's annual meeting.

Q How are dividends paid?

A Payments to ordinary shareholders are made after those due to preference shareholders. Payments are made net of tax, with basic-rate tax deducted in the form of advanced corporation tax paid by the issuing company.

Q What if I, as a shareholder, do not pay tax?

A The dividend payment comes with a tax voucher stating how much has been deducted. Non-taxpayers or those on low incomes can claim back the income tax paid at 20 per cent.

Q Do I pay more if I am a higher rate taxpayer?

A If you are a 40 per cent taxpayer your dividend income will be liable to a further 20 per cent tax, with dividends added on to your total income.

If, for example, you received £4,000 in dividend payments, on top of other earnings totalling £22,000, the extra tax liability would be £340, arising from the £1,700 of income tax at 40 per cent. This applies in the current tax year where the threshold for 40 per cent tax is £24,300, rising to £25,500 in 1996-97. Dividend income has to be declared on annual tax returns.

Q What are special or super dividends?

A These have hit the headlines recently with a number of the regional electricity companies such as Yorkshire and East Midlands giving shareholders an extra dividend on top of normal payments. Companies making these payments may be looking to return surplus cash to shareholders, a move that will serve to boost the attraction of the shares, or the payment may be given in the course of a takeover battle.

A company fending off a hostile bid might promise extra dividends to its shareholders as part of a reward package to help to ensure their loyalty.

Forte in its bid to fight off Granada promised to raise the *annual dividend by 20 per cent* a year until the end of the decade. Granada countered by raising its initial offer for Forte to £3.74 billion and included the option of a special dividend of 47p per Forte share.

For non-taxpaying shareholders such as the pension funds, that 47p would be bumped up with a tax credit of 12p — no small sum considering the millions of shares held by these big institutions.

Q What does xd mean in *share price listings?*

A If xd appears next to a share price in newspaper listings it means ex-dividend. That is to say if you had just bought the shares you would not be entitled to the most recently announced dividend payment.

Q What is the dividend yield?

A This is a measure of the return provided by dividends on your share investment, and used as one of the measures of a company's performance. Newspaper share listings will show a yield figure that will vary with each price change.

If, for example, you bought shares in Sprocket Ltd for 500p and received a dividend for the year of 14p gross, the yield would be 2.8 (14p as a percentage of 500p).

A high-yielding share might indicate better immediate returns, but could also mean that the company is showing only slow profits growth. A low-yielding share might be seen as a company promising substantial profit growth and dividends in the future.

These assumptions can be challenged, however, given that dividend payments are variable and at the company's discretion. So they could be influenced not just by profitability but by other factors such as the threat of a takeover.

Q What is meant by dividend cover?

A This can be read as an indication of the company's financial health. The dividend cover is calculated by dividing the available net profits by the total cost of the dividend payments. If Sprocket showed a net profit of £22,000 and decided to pay out £6,000 in dividends, the dividend cover will be 3.6 times.

The higher the figure the healthier the business looks, though there are occasions when a company continues to pay a dividend even though it is making a loss. If it believes *its losses are only temporary* it may well draw on its reserves to meet the dividend payment, hoping to reassure shareholders and prevent the company's share price falling sharply.

Q Do companies have to pay a dividend?

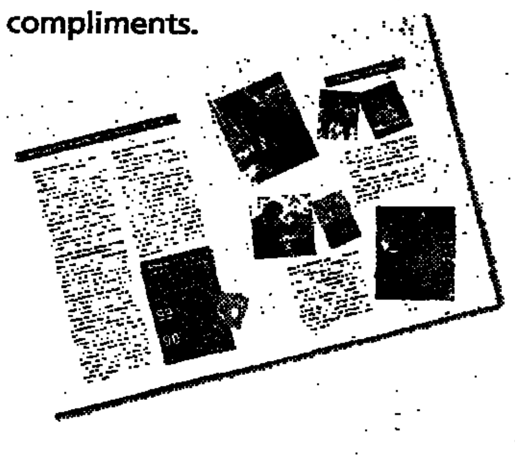
A Dividend payments are optional payments made by the company directors though the failure to pay is clearly going to diminish the attraction of the shares and therefore knock the share price. A decision may be taken to pass or reduce the payments if the profits have fallen, though companies again might seek to reassure shareholders by forecasting a return to dividend payments by a certain date.

Q What is a scrip dividend?

A Shareholders may be given the option of taking the dividend in cash or subscribing for an equivalent value in shares.

Q Where can information on a company's dividend performance be found?

A Annual reports will usually detail the company's performance in terms of profits or losses, dividend growth and share price performance over a five-year period.



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Karen Zagor examines a sector that is back in fashion

Emerging into favour

BILL SANDERSON

After two years in the doldrums, emerging markets have started the year with a bang, encouraging investors to turn their attention back towards Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Jean De Bolle, global portfolio manager at Foreign & Colonial emerging markets, notes: "The sentiment clearly turned during December and that has continued through the new year. Most emerging markets are up 5 per cent, and many are up 10 per cent in US dollar terms since the start of the year. And they are still quite cheap on a relative basis."

But with the memory of Mexico's financial collapse still fresh, the faint-hearted would do well to steer clear of emerging markets — those countries in which the economy has not yet matured, such as India, Thailand, Chile, South Africa, even Greece or Portugal.

Such investments usually involve buying the shares or bonds of a company which is either based in an emerging market or does the bulk of its business in one. For private investors, the easiest way to put money into an emerging market is through a specialised investment or unit trust.

Because of the rapid economic growth, emerging market investments can provide far higher returns than investments in more mature, and safer markets. According to figures from Micropal, £100 invested in an average emerging market fund in January 1990 would have grown to £292.39 by January 1996, compared with £213.39 for the average UK equity growth unit trust. The discrepancy between different emerging market funds, however, is enormous. The same amount invested in top-performing Genesis Chile Fund would have risen to £737.04. At the bottom of the performance table, £100 in BMf Indonesian Growth fund would have dropped to £44.67.

However, experts are optimistic as a growing number of countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa appear to be on the road to greater political and economic stability. Richard Luddington, head of emerging market debt syndicate at J P Morgan, says: "The current, relatively low level of international interest rates and the expectation of sustained growth rates for emerging markets, especially when compared with G7 countries, are making people feel pretty bullish in 1996."

Among those in favour, Eastern Europe has been strong for several months, and Foreign & Colonial believes that the future looks bright.

Latin American markets suffered last year by their association with Mexico. This year, Mr Luddington expects slow but level growth from Argentina and Mexico after last year's negative growth. Investors are also increasingly optimistic about the prosepcts for Chile, Peru and Brazil.

In 1995, Africa enjoyed a year of unprecedented growth for foreign investors, with returns, in US dollar terms, in the region of 40 per cent. The lifting of apartheid in South Africa has proved the catalyst for change throughout the region. African countries are edging towards more realistic exchange rates, lifting exchange controls and removing subsidies and price controls, all of which makes for a better investment environment.

"South Africa has done surprisingly well," says Mr De Bolle. "The political risk has diminished and the new ANC Government has shown itself very capable of managing the economy."

Later this year, Mr De Bolle expects strong returns from Korea and India. Russia, however, remains an enigma. The advantages of the country's rich resources have been more than offset by its crumbling infrastructure, chaotic regulations and political instability. Some problems that faced investors have been resolved, but, with a presidential election looming, the consensus is that investors should watch rather than jump in.

One lesson that came out of Mexico, says Mr Luddington, is that investors should pick individual countries rather than put their money into a region. "Make sure you read as much of the available economic data on the individual countries as possible. That way you can compile some sort of batting order in terms of preference for investments. Above all, make sure you achieve a balanced portfolio in terms of geographic risk."

Pep with mix of funds for astute investor

Fidelity, the world's largest independent fund management company, launched its Triple Performance Pep last week, aimed specifically at the "more sophisticated investor".

The Fidelity Triple Performance Pep combines top-performing funds — Special Situations, European Trust and South-East Asia Trust — within a Pep portfolio. For the first time, the South East Asia Trust is available within a Pep at a lower initial charge than the standard 5.25 per cent unit trust equivalent.

Investors who take a Triple Performance Pep in the 1995-96 tax year, at 3 per cent initial charge and 1.5 per cent annual management fee, will have the opportunity to invest in a new Pep in 1996-97 with no initial charge. The minimum investment is £3,000. An investor using their full allowance for the current year and next can invest up to £12,000.

The current Pep market is two thirds income and one third growth, according to Barry Bateman, president of Fidelity Investments Europe, who says the more discerning Pep and unit trust investors are looking for capital growth.

Mr Bateman adds: "There has recently been a proliferation of Peps emphasising income from UK investments, but Fidelity's experience is that more than half of all the income will be reinvested. We believe that these investors should really be using capital-growth Peps.

"The funds in the Triple Performanee Pep have an outstanding track record." Mark Bolland, a technical director at Chamberlain de Broe, says: "They're very much growth funds at the higher end of the risk scale, so the usual caveat applies that past performance isn't always a guide to future growth. The dividend yield is less than 1 per cent, so in the short term, you will be saving little income tax."

The portfolio split is 50 per cent Special Situations Trust, which has grown 2,553.3 per cent since its launch in December 1979. It was voted "unit trust of the decade" by Micropal, after it outperformed all other unit trusts over 10 years from its launch.

The European Trust, of which the portfolio split is 25 per cent, has grown 739.6 per cent since its launch in November 1985. Fidelity claims it is the best performing of all unit trusts.

The last 25 per cent of the portfolio is the South-East Asia Trust — an area of key economic growth over the last 10 years. It has grown 624.8 per cent since its launch in October 1984.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Abbey National cuts savers' rates

ABBEY NATIONAL has introduced new interest rates on its range of savings accounts, which means an average decrease of 0.25 per cent in interest for savers. Savers' rates have been implemented at the same time as the latest mortgage rate reduction, also of 0.25 per cent, announced in December.

The new rate for an Instant Saver with £10,000 in his or her account is 3.45 per cent per annum, compared with a previous return of 3.75 per cent. For a Regular Saver with £10,000, it is now 5.55 per cent. Abbey National's Postal Account annual rates will be effective from February 12.

■ Direct Line Financial Services are launching a telephone savings account called the Direct Line Instant Access Account. Savers will be able to make transactions over the telephone, and money can be moved into and out of the account without notice and without losing interest.

The account includes an interest-maximising facility, which will allow savers to pool the balances held in separate accounts of family and friends, and earn interest at the rate applicable to the combined balance. For customers wishing to segment their savings, the "Jam Jar" money management service is available. Account holders can store their savings in up to 20 sub-accounts to suit their needs. To open a Direct Line Instant Access Account, call 0181 667 1121 (London) or 0141 221 1121 (Glasgow).

■ Investors have a tendency to focus on yield when making their purchase decision for Corporate Bond Peps, overlooking the fact that the potential a fund may offer is strongly linked to the risks inherent in its make-up, according to Allenbridge, the Pep analyst.

A free *Corporate Bond Pep Risk Evaluator* to aid investors with risk assessment is now available from Allenbridge. It includes detailed research on 14 top Pep recommendations. The various risks assessed for each fund include: sensitivity to interest rate movements, credit risk to measure the likelihood of default by the issuer of the bond, the level of liquidity and diversification. For a free PEPTALK package, including the risk evaluator, call 0500 551000.

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SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	Prosperity	Postal	£2,500	5.60	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 303330	Direct Saving	Postal	£5,000	5.75	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 303330	Direct Saving	Postal	£25,000	6.00	Yly
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	Instant Acc	Postal	£50,000	6.15	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Cheltenham & Glouc 0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day p	£1,000	6.50	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day p	£10,000	6.75	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day p	£25,000	7.10	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0121 6808024	Guar Growth	31.1.97	£5,000	6.50	F/OM

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Bank of Ireland 0800 833937		5 Year	£500	7.25	F/Yly
Allied Trust Bank 0171 6260879		5 Year	£9,000	7.25	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505		5 Year	£3,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 Year	£25	7.25	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.94%G	12.10%	Nil C
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	MasterCard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£11

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489966	14.90%E	£114.41	£102.59
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
Alnce & Leicstr Grp 0116 2626262	15.30%D	£114.67	£103.00

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
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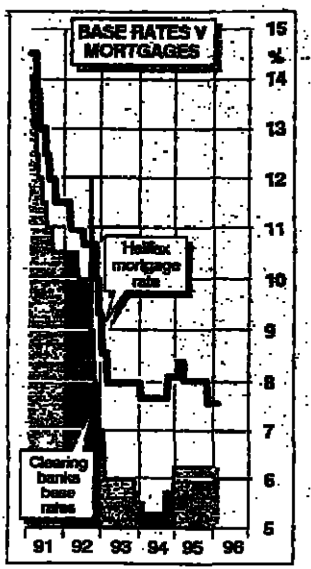
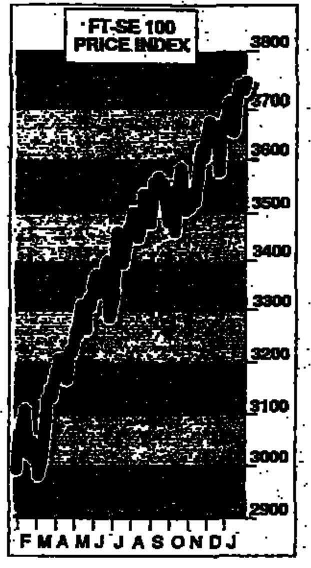
Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





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	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* §	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500**	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* §	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond§	6.25	4.68	3.75	1,000-20,000**		01416362558
43rd Issue Cert†§	5.35			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0141636263
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond§	6.85	4.98	3.99	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
9th Index Linked†§	2.50			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S3 §	7.00	5.25	4.20	500-50,000§	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years ‡0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ %£40,000 jt in addition to 51 holdings§Taxable but cred in full. **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£10,012	£11,038	£12,418
Stalwart * ....Level	£9,978	£11,037	£12,156
Stndrd Life ....Level	£9,956	£11,024	£12,416
Canada Lfe ....Level	£9,843	£11,018	£12,607
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£9,972	£11,016	£12,442

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,251	£9,993	£11,078
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£9,230	£9,970	£11,063
Royal Life ....Level	£9,119	£9,957	£11,189
Scottish Widows ..Level	£9,230	£9,870	£10,830
Canada Life ....Level	£9,010	£9,856	£11,092

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Stalwart * ....Level	£8,835	£9,500	£10,274
Prudential ....Level	£8,897	£9,454	£10,281
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£8,855	£9,429	£10,249
MGM Assurance ..Level	£8,678	£9,303	£10,190
Royal Life ....Level	£8,658	£9,302	£10,221

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at February 1, 1996

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	5,000	AIG Life	4.65
	10,000	AIG Life	4.75
	20,000	AIG Life	4.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.00
2 Years	5,000	AIG Life	4.93
	10,000	AIG Life	5.03
	20,000	AIG Life	5.18
	50,000	AIG Life	5.33
3 Years	1,000	Premium Life	4.70
	5,000	AIG Life	5.02
	10,000	AIG Life	5.22
	20,000	AIG Life	5.33
	50,000	AIG Life	5.42
4 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.20
	20,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.30
	50,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.40
5 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.20

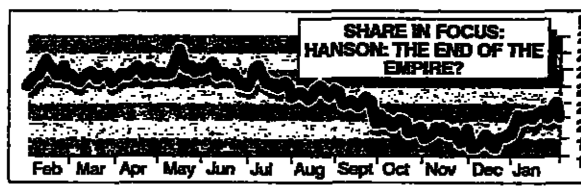
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	101.11	9.264	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	123.71	9.381	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	137.39	9.440	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	142.23	9.382	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	137.16	9.460	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	127.91	9.456	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	117.99	9.948	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	95.73	9.142	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	128.40	9.127	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	148.21	9.165	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	141.80	9.412	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	117.71	9.118	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	137.75	9.144	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	137.50	9.161	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	137.99	9.312	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First National	9.30000%	100.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.19	to £100k	90	6.25% discount to 1.3.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.39	neg	95	6% disc 1 year, 2% disc 18 mths
Banks				
Barclays 0800 000929	3.74	£15k+	90	3.75% discount for 1 year
National Westminst 0121 2342000	2.54	£15k+	75	5.20% dsc 12 mth Var rate-31.3.99

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	to £150k	75	Rate fixed for 1 year
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.35	to £150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.00%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Nat West Bank 0121 234 2000	2.54	£15k+	75	5.20% dsc-12mth Tied rt-31.3.99

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	1.89	no min/max	95	fixed to 1.12.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	2.50	£15k+	95	4.74% discount for 12 months
Skipton 0800 446776	1.49	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7% disc 6 mnths 3% disc 6 mnths
TSB 0121 6006147	3.75	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 12 months

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	523.10	553.60	- 0.60	...
UK Equity	654.50	692.60	- 5.10	...
Property	515.30	545.30	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Interest	363.30	384.50	- 0.30	...
Money	261.80	277.10	+ 0.30	...
International	464.00	491.10	+12.60	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	249.00	262.20	...	0
-do- Acc	490.20	516.10	...	...
Equity Fd Inc	201.30	211.90	+ 1.60	...
-do- Acc	276.20	290.80	+ 2.40	...
Selective Fd	532.30	560.40	+ 1.10	...
Money Fd	396.70	417.60	+ 0.20	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.20	393.90	- 0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	255.20	268.70	+ 1.90	...
Man Ser 4	750.90	790.50	+ 6.30	...
Conv Ser 4	343.20	361.30	+ 0.10	...
Money Ser 4	342.90	361.00	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	375.80	395.60	- 3.30	...
American Ser 4	597.40	628.90	+10.90	...
High Inc Ser 4	769.80	810.40	+ 1.30	...
Indexed Int Ser 4	225.10	237	- 1.30	...
Japan Ser 4	372.40	392	+ 2.80	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1799.90	1852.40	+ 6.80	...
European Fd Acc	417.20	439.10	+ 4.50	...
Fixed Int Acc	553.70	582.80	- 3.10	...
Gtd Money Acc	349.60	368.00	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	685.80	721.80	+ 4.00	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	367.30	386.60	- 0.80	...
Japan Fund	275.00	289.40	+ 0.60	...
N American Acc	383.60	403.70	+ 4.20	...
Prop Fd Acc	454.50	478.40	+ 0.40	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1155.50	1216.20	+ 4.90	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	390.50	411.10	+ 0.10	...
Equity Acc	1634.20	1720.30	+28.90	...
Property Acc	610.40	642.60		
Far East Acc	357.10	375.90	+10.20	...
Managed Capital	595.40	626.80	+ 8.80	...
-do- Acc	1250.20	1316.00	+18.40	...
Overseas Acc	1093.60	1151.20	+25.60	...
Gilt Edged Acc	531.00	559.00	- 3.30	
Amer Equity Acc	1016.00	1069.50	+21.80	...
Amer Man Acc	425.20	447.60	+ 8.10	...
Amer Prop Acc	118.50	124.80	- 0.90	...
Distribution Bonds	25.10	26.50	+ 0.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463465				
Reserve Ser 6	172.00	181.00	- 0.50	...
Balncd Ser 6	815.70	858.60	+12.00	...
Opportunity Ser 6	186.50	196.30	+ 2.20	...
Distribution Ser 6	105.50	111.10	- 0.10	6.73
UK Equities Ser 6	1140.60	1200.60	+16.80	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1193.50	1256.30	+12.40	...
North Amer Ser 6	573.70	603.80	+15.70	...
Far East Ser 6	633.20	666.50	+10.40	...
Europe Ser 6	439.80	462.90	+ 5.90	...
Intnl Ser 6	668.00	703.10	+13.00	...
Property Ser 6	577.00	607.30	- 1.00	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	481.90	507.20	- 3.00	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec Se	192.50	202.60	- 1.00	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	311.40	327.70	.	..
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	975.80	1027.20	+ 6.40	...
-do- Initial	618.70	651.30	+ 2.10	...
Gilt Edged Acc	422.80	445.10	- 3.80	...
-do- Initial	270.40	284.70	- 3.30	...
International Acc	454.60	478.60	+ 5.10	...
-do- Initial	288.90	304.20	+ 2.40	...
Managed Acc	595.50	626.90	+ 3.40	...
-do- Initial	374.90	399.90	- 1.10	...
Money Acc	304.60	320.70	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	308.70	325.00	- 0.20	...
-do- Initial	195.90	206.30	- 0.30	...
America Acc	354.30	373.00	+ 7.40	.
Australia Acc	246.30	259.30	+ 7.90	...
Financial Acc	424.80	447.20	- 1.20	...
500 Accum	492.40	518.40	+ 1.10	.
Japan Genl Acc	318.60	335.40	- 1.70	...
Income Acc	590.10	621.20	- 2.60	...
Leisure Acc	296.40	312.00	+ 1.10	...
Special Sits Acc	287.70	302.90	+ 2.30	.
Univ Tech Acc	182.40	192.50	+ 2.90	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	911.71	911.71	+ 5.37	...
Income Fund	852.85	897.73	+ 2.57	...
Extra Income	776.34	817.20	+ 3.17	...
Worldwide Gth	559.96	589.44	+ 8.88	...
Balanced Fund	753.43	793.09	+ 3.58	...
Smllr Cos Recov	901.37	948.82	+ 5.58	...
N Amer & Genl	440.91	464.12	+ 9.07	...
Pacific Basin	482.53	507.93	+ 8.93	...
German Growth	262.78	276.62	+ 1.74	...
Japan Growth	200.97	211.55	+ 1.55	...
The UK Gth Fd	241.58	254.30	+ 1.16	...
Contl Euro Gth	157.28	165.56	+ 3.24	...
Property Fund	411.24	432.89	+ 0.29	...
Fixed Interest	347.11	365.38	- 3.14	...
Cash Fund	295.84	311.42	+ 0.24	...
Managed Inv	548.14	576.98	+ 3.29	...
Nth Amer Recov	297.49	313.15	+ 3.21	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	535.13	563.30	+ 2.59	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 888000				
Measured Perf	184.40	195.10	+ 2.20	...
Performance Plus	201.60	213.30	+ 5.50	...
With Profit Perf	179.90	190.20	+ 0.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	214.90	227.40	+ 1.30	...
Euro Opportunity	239.40	253.30	+ 4.00	...
North Amer Opp	203.80	215.60	+ 5.80	...
Far East Opp	226.60	239.70	+ 9.80	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	159.50	167.80	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	196.40	207.80	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int	213.90	226.30	- 0.40	...
Cash	164.90	174.30	+ 0.50	6.49
Overseas	232.30	245.80	+ 6.40	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	395.60	416.90	+ 4.70	...
UK Equity	653.90	688.40	+ 4.70	...
Property	265.70	279.70	- 0.30	...
Money Market	263.10	277.00	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	320.30	337.20	- 1.80	...
Japan	376.80	396.70	+ 5.70	...
North America	188.90	198.90	+ 5.10	...
International	370.70	390.30	+10.00	...
European	312.70	329.20	+ 5.40	...
Far East	163.00	171.60	+ 7.60	...
CANADA LIFE 24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth †	277.80	...	...	..
Managed	378.30	398.30	+ 3.00	...
Property	248.50	261.60	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	262.10	275.90	- 1.60	...
Equity	429.80	452.50	+ 2.90	.
Cash	225.00	236.90	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	435.10	458.00	+ 3.70	...
CLife Intl Fd	411.90	433.60	+ 7.80	...
Managed Fund	810.10	852.70	+ 6.40	...
Property Fund	517.50	544.70	...	...
Equity Fund	1072.60	1129.00	+ 8.80	...
Gilt Edged Fd	671.20	706.50	- 3.60	...
Deposit Fund	348.70	367.00	+ 1.50	...
Investment Fd	456.40	479.20	+ 2.60	...
International	625.50	658.40	+ 9.40	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	163.70	172.40	+ 0.40	...
Managed Fund	717.80	755.60	+ 7.60	...
Equity Fund	415.90	437.80	+ 2.40	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	327.60	344.90	+ 1.90	...
Ruby	197.00	207.40	+ 1.90	...
Emerald	155.10	163.30	- 0.60	...
Equity	376.00	395.80	+ 1.30	...
Property	232.70	245.00	+ 0.10	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	222.50	234.30	- 1.40	...
Indexed Secs	179.60	189.10	- 0.80	...
Cash	196.50	206.90	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	289.50	304.80	+ 5.40	...
Far East	371.00	390.60	+ 6.30	...
International	278.60	293.30	+ 3.70	...
Special Sits	399.80	420.90	+ 2.00	...
Intl Income	334.30	351.90	+ 3.10	...
American Inc	239.90	252.60	+ 3.50	...
European	375.90	395.70	+ 3.50	...
Japanese	147.40	155.20	- 2.40	...
SE Asia	421.30	443.50	+ 6.60	...
With Profits Reg	177.10	186.50	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	173.10	186.50	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	380.90	401.00	+ 4.10	...
Equity	460.70	485.00	+ 5.10	...
Property	213.70	225.00	+ 0.20	. .
Gilt & Fixed Int	283.40	298.40	- 1.90	...
Index Linked	190.30	200.40	- 0.90	...
Cash	266.30	280.40	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	365.90	385.20	+ 9.20	...
Far East Acc	353.20	371.80	+ 7.30	...
International Acc	354.40	373.10	+ 5.90	.
Special Sits	600.20	631.80	+ 5.00	...
European Flex	532.00	560.10	+ 6.70	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890000				
(Units): Key †	233.18	..	...	...
-do- Pacemaker †	345.62	..	..	...
-do- Cash	211.80	222.95	+ 0.14	...
-do- Equity	614.32	646.65	+ 5.69	...
-do- Fxd Int	391.65	412.26	- 2.87	...
-do- Managed	440.74	463.94	+ 3.61	...
-do- Property	291.17	306.49	+ 0.58	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	212.37	223.56	+ 0.09	. .
-do- Cash Inv	323.81	340.86	+ 0.35	...
-do- Equity Cap	[illegible]	[illegible]	+17.35	...
-do- Equity Inv	[illegible]	[illegible]	+28.20	...
-do- Fixed Cap	422.54	444.79	- 3.29	...
-do- Fixed Inv	644.27	678.19	- 4.56	...
-do- Index Cap	208.72	219.71	- 1.32	...
-do- Index Inv	318.24	335.00	- 1.79	...
-do- Mngd Cap	650.03	684.25	- 6.36	...
-do- Mngd Inv	991.13	[illegible]	+10.39	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) †	836.31	...	- 4.51	...
Var Ann (5) †	103.14	...	- 0.27	...
Prime: Managed	455.30	479.30	+ 5.70	...
Prime: UK Equity	550.70	580.20	+ 9.00	...
Prime: Int Equity	337.70	355.50	+ 4.80	...
Prime: Property	256.40	269.90	+ 0.30	...
Prime: Fxd Int	253.00	266.40	- 1.20	...
Prime Index-Lnk	181.20	190.80	- 0.70	...
Prime: Cash	214.90	226.30	...	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1237.40	1302.50	+12.50	...
Equity II	1788.30	1882.40	+13.80	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) †	103.30	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) †	102.30	..	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3) †	108.50	...	+ 1.10	...
Equity Mngd (3) †	109.00	...	+ 1.40	..
Adventurous (3) †	107.80	..	+ 1.20	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2) †	102.60	...	+ 0.10	..
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) †	100.70	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) †	100.60	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) †	104.00	...	+ 1.30	...
Equity Mngd (2) †	104.60	...	+ 1.60	...
Adventurous (2) †	105.40	...	+ 1.50	...
Bristol & West (2) †	100.70	...	+ 0.10	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	328.00	339.80	+ 1.40	2.69
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	346.50	364.80	+ 2.30	...
UK Equity	463.30	487.70	+ 2.90	...
Stewardship	402.50	423.70	+ 2.00	...
Overseas Equity	330.20	347.60	+ 4.30	...
North American	181.60	191.20	+ 4.20	...
Pacific Basin	186.80	196.70	+ 3.00	...
European	264.50	278.50	+ 0.30	...
Property	182.80	192.50	- 1.10	...
Fixed Interest	259.00	272.70	- 2.20	...
Index Linked	179.40	188.90	- 1.10	...
Cash	210.00	221.10	+ 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	588.10	619.00	- 5.20	...
Managed	771.70	812.30	+ 3.70	...
Deposit	357.30	376.10	+ 0.40	..
Property	473.30	498.20	- 1.90	...
American	511.50	538.40	+12.60	...
Australian	608.40	640.40	+16.20	...
European	641.00	674.70	+ 1.10	...
Income Acc	835.70	879.60	+ 0.50	...
-do- Dist	478.20	503.40	+ 0.40	4.96
International	356.10	374.80	+ 4.30	...
Japan Smaller	471.80	496.60	+ 4.90	...
Singapore & Mal	464.40	488.80	+ 9.30	..
Smaller Cos	460.40	484.60	+ 0.10	...
Tokyo Fund	674.10	709.50	-12.60	...
UK Equity	644.50	678.40	+ 2.80	...
CCM Vangd Mg	853.40	898.30	+ 7.40	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	354.80	373.50	+ 3.80	...
GT Plan Wwide	537.50	565.80	+ 8.60	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	769.60	769.60	+ 4.40	...
-do- Inv A	769.50	810.10	+ 4.70	..
UK Equity	462.30	486.70	- 3.80	. .
Gilt Plus	219.80	230.50	- 1.10	. .
Managed	344.90	363.20	+ 2.20	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	237.30	249.70	+ 1.80	...
Unitised Profit	148.30	156.10	+ 0.20	..
UK Equity	328.90	346.10	- 2.60	...
Fixed Int	211.30	222.30	- 1.40	...
Index-Linked	175.30	184.50	- 1.00	...
Cash Deposit	181.70	191.20	+ 0.20	..
Property	181.80	191.20	+ 0.20	...
International	194.00	204.10	+ 1.90	..
American	203.50	214.10	+ 4.20	...
Japan	248.20	261.20	+ 1.10	...
Japan Smllr Cos	254.20	267.50	+ 1.20	.
European	203.90	214.50	+ 1.70	..
Pacific Fund	324.80	341.80	+ 5.00	...
Conv Life	143.40	150.90	+ 0.80	..
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	542.70	571.30	+ 4.00	...
Managed Initial	352.40	370.90	+ 2.30	..
Equity Ord	835.90	879.90	+ 4.70	..
Equity Init	542.90	571.40	+ 2.80	..
I-Linked Gilt Ord	213.50	224.70	- 1.30	..
I-Linked Gilt Init	144.80	152.40	- 1.00	...
Oseas Equity Ord	437.50	460.50	+ 6.50	...
Oseas Equity Init	284.10	299.10	+ 4.20	...
Property Ord	278.60	293.30	- 0.50	...
Property Init	180.90	190.40	+ 0.10	.
Fixed Int Ord	307.80	324.00	- 2.00	...
Fixed Int Init	199.90	210.40	- 1.40	...
Deposit Ord	216.30	227.70	+ 0.20	...
Deposit Initial	140.40	147.80	..	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	829.00	863.50	- 1.60	...
Managed Initial	522.70	550.20	+ 2.80	...
-do- Acc	765.10	805.30	+ 4.30	...
Equity Initial	799.10	841.20	+ 3.60	...
-do- Acc	1169.70	1231.30	+ 5.70	...
Fixed Int Initial	470.80	495.50	- 4.40	...
-do- Acc	689.10	725.40	- 6.00	...
Intl Initial	516.90	544.10	+ 4.80	...
-do- Acc	756.60	796.50	+ 7.40	...
Nth Amer Initial	231.90	244.10	+ 5.00	...
-do- Acc	309.00	325.20	+ 6.80	..
Pacific Initial	257.10	270.70	+ 2.10	...
-do- Acc	339.30	357.20	+ 2.90	...
Property Initial	177.10	186.40	- 0.90	...
-do- Acc	259.10	272.80	- 0.60	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	166.40	175.10	- 1.50	...
-do- Acc	221.80	233.70	- 1.80	...
Deposit Initial	201.60	212.20	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	295.10	310.60	+ 0.20	. .
Euro Initial	118.90	125.20	+ 0.60	.
-do- Acc	146.40	154.10	+ 0.80	. .
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	28.39	29.88	- 0.33	..
Balanced	29.02	30.55	+ 0.34	...
Opportunity	29.63	31.19	+ 0.35	...
Deposit	24.69	25.99	+ 0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation	29.28	30.82	+ 0.42	...
Balanced	29.72	31.28	+ 0.47	..
Opportunity	30.33	31.93	+ 0.38	. .
Deposit	25.07	26.39	+ 0.03	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	191.70	201.70	+ 1.80	...
-do- Pens	242.40	255.10	+ 2.90	...
UK Equity	199.10	209.50	+ 1.70	...
-do- Pens	234.60	246.90	+ 2.90	...
International	169.10	177.90	+ 1.90	...
-do- Pens	188.00	197.80	+ 2.70	...
Deposit	145.30	152.90	+ 0.20	...
-do- Pens	174.60	183.70	+ 0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	395.50	420.80	+ 3.20	...
North America	444.20	473.10	+12.00	...
Far East Fund	661.00	692.60	+12.70	...
Global Managed	534.70	568.90	+ 7.10	...
Deposit Fund	239.30	251.80	+ 0.20	...
Prime Residential	136.20	143.40	...	...
European Fund	299.90	319.10	+ 4.70	...
Fixed Interest	68.30	72.70	- 0.30	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	597.50	632.30	+ 4.40	...
British Fund	618.70	654.80	+ 8.30	...
International	637.40	674.50	+11.90	...
Dollar Fund	502.70	532.00	+13.60	...
Capital Fund	563.30	596.10	- 7.60	...
Income Fund	790.90	837.00	+ 6.50	...
Property Series A	470.00	497.40	- 1.80	4.50
Property Units	777.20	816.60	+ 3.10	...
Financial Fund	706.50	747.70	- 1.50	...
Managed Ser A	622.30	658.60	+ 6.70	...
Managed Units	1118.60	1177.50	+12.10	...
High Yield Fund	717.70	759.50	+ 5.60	...
Money Series A	302.40	320.00	+ 0.30	...
Money Units	402.50	423.70	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	717.30	759.00	+ 9.30	...
Fixed Interest	399.30	422.60	- 3.60	...
Indexed Secs	199.40	211.10	- 1.50	...
European Fund	858.40	908.40	+14.80	...
Natural Res	359.10	380.00	+13.20	...
Far East Fund	731.40	774.00	+ 9.00	...
Smaller Cos	559.20	591.80	+ 3.80	...
Special Sits	552.00	584.20	+ 9.50	...
Mac Currency	280.70	297.10	- 0.20	...
Japanese Tech	335.00	354.50	- 0.90	...
US Smaller Cos	357.20	378.00	+ 6.60	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	260.00	273.80	+ 0.30	...
Financial Ser I	57.20	61.20	- 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	356.20	375.00	- 2.40	...
Gold	105.20	110.80	+ 5.10	...
Managed	693.70	730.30	+ 7.10	...
Mngd Growth	222.40	234.20	+ 1.40	...
Mngd Opp	234.80	247.20	+ 1.70	...
Property	331.10	348.50	...	...
Residential Prop	105.50	111.10	- 0.10	...
TSB American	264.30	278.30	+10.70	...
TSB Brit Gwth	999.70	1052.40	+11.60	...
TSB European	310.20	326.60	+ 5.40	...
TSB Income	431.80	454.60	+ 3.10	...
TSB Intl	488.50	514.30	+ 8.40	...
TSB Intl Inc	327.50	344.80	- 0.50	...
TSB Pacific	465.00	489.60	+ 9.00	...
TSB Prem Inc	276.90	288.30	- 2.40	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48881				
Global Managed	653.90	688.30	+ 5.50	...
Global Property	314.30	330.80	+ 2.10	...
Global Fixed Int	562.30	591.90	- 6.30	...
Global Equity	709.70	747.00	+ 7.50	...
Global Cash	223.80	235.60	+ 0.10	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	504.60	531.10	- 0.10	...
Managed	473.00	497.80	+ 4.80	...
American	520.80	549.30	+11.30	...
UK Equity Fd	517.00	539.90	+ 4.50	...
Japan	223.50	235.20	+ 0.40	...
Index-Lkd	195.80	206.10	- 1.10	...
High Yield	959.70	1010	+ 7.00	...
Money	421.60	443.70	+ 0.40	...
International	455.70	479.60	+ 7.10	..
Henderson Active	239.50	252.10	+ 3.30	...
Perpetual Active	379.20	399.10	+ 6.00	...
Growth Acc	738.50	777.30	+ 8.10	...
Gilt Edged	466.80	491.30	- 2.90	...
European	174.20	183.30	+ 3.50	...
Far East	241.50	254.20	+ 4.90	..
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	195.40	205.60	+ 0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	163.30	171.90	+ 1.20	...
-do- Acc	209.90	221.00	+ 2.10	...
Cash Initial	169.10	178.00	- 0.30	...
-do- Acc	301.60	317.50	+ 0.10	..
Equity Initial	741.20	780.20	+ 5.80	...
-do- Acc	1321.60	1391.00	+13.80	...
Fixed Initial	364.10	383.30	- 3.10	...
-do- Acc	649.10	683.30	- 3.80	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	137.40	144.70	- 1.40	...
-do- Acc	209.10	220.20	- 1.70	...
Intl Initial	359.20	378.20	+ 4.60	...
-do- Acc	631.60	663.60	+ 9.40	...
Managed Initial	534.80	562.90	+ 3.60	...
-do- Acc	935.60	984.90	+ 8.70	...
Property Initial	220.00	231.60	- 0.40	...
-do- Acc	392.20	412.90	+ 0.20	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units †	1146.80	..	+ 1.18	..
Property Units †	427.86	...	+ 0.91	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	74.45	78.36	- 0.72	...
2nd Equity Acc	703.30	740.30	+ 5.80	...
2nd High Inc Acc	677.20	713.00	- 7.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
2nd Property Acc	254.40	267.80	+ 9.00	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	197.30	207.40	+ 0.70	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	519.80	547.10	+ 5.00	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	261.50	275.20	+ 2.60	...
2nd Deposit Acc	296.80	312.40	- 0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	330.20	347.60	- 1.70	...
2nd Amer Acc	867.20	912.90	+18.50	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	276.40	290.90	+ 0.20	...
2nd Index Acc	218.60	230.10	- 1.00	...
2nd Far East Acc	489.70	515.40	+ 4.90	...
2nd Global Acc	197.40	207.80	+ 2.50	...
2nd Euro Acc	178.60	188.00	+ 2.70	...
2nd Japan Acc	196.00	206.30	+ 1.10	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	178.40	187.80	- 0.10	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	139.60	147.00	+ 1.10	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity †	630.01	...	+ 9.80	...
Fixed Interest †	465.60	...	- 3.20	...
Property †	431.00	...	...	...
Deposit †	307.10	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed †	667.10	...	+ 5.00	...
Indexed Stock †	228.40	...	- 1.10	...
International †	338.70	...	+ 3.60	...
Equity A †	232.10	...	+ 2.30	...
Fixed Int A †	206.30	...	- 1.40	...
Property A †	189.20	...	...	...
Deposit A †	180.30	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed A †	218.90	...	+ 1.60	...
Index Stock A †	178.60	...	- 0.90	...
International A †	211.30	...	+ 2.20	...
Equity P †	842.00	...	+ 9.80	...
Fixed Int P †	603.80	...	- 4.00	...
Property P †	336.20	...	- 0.50	...
Deposit P †	366.50	...	+ 0.50	...
Mixed P †	622.00	...	+ 5.80	...
Index Stock P †	262.50	...	- 1.20	...
International P †	404.30	...	+ 5.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap †	620.50	...	+ 3.90	...
-do- Acc †	1094.00	...	+ 7.90	...
Property Cap †	142.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc †	241.00	...	+ 0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap †	202.70	...	- 1.80	...
-do- Acc †	346.80	...	- 2.40	...
Equity Cap †	348.90	...	+ 1.30	...
-do- Acc †	602.60	...	+ 2.80	...
Internatl Cap †	255.00	...	+ 4.20	...
-do- Acc †	435.80	..	+ 7.40	...
Gtd Deposit Cap †	162.90	...	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc †	274.40	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap †	370.60	...	+ 2.00	...
-do- Acc †	638.00	...	+ 4.00	...
Moneymaker Fd †	493.60	...	+ 2.50	...
Capital Growth †	1979.20	...	+13.20	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	529.00	555.50	+ 8.70	...
Amer Rec Bond	585.40	614.80	+17.50	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	273.60	287.40	+ 2.70	...
Australasia Bd	272.10	285.90	+ 9.80	...
Commodity Bond	398.90	418.90	-11.70	...
Deposit Bond Acc	377.80	396.80	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1680.50	1764.70	-13.20	...
European Bd Acc	446.00	468.40	- 8.20	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	829.80	871.40	+ 6.60	...
Far East Bd Acc	352.20	369.90	+ 3.60	...
Gilt Bond Acc	477.70	501.70	- 3.80	...
Gold Bond Acc	219.20	230.30	+13.10	...
High Yield Bond	370.10	388.80	+ 4.10	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	221.60	232.70	- 1.20	...
International Bd	867.10	910.60	+10.90	...
Japan Bond Acc	256.90	269.80	+ 2.60	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	244.20	256.60	- 6.10	...
Managed Bonds	970.40	1019.00	-10.70	...
Prop Bond Acc	368.20	386.70	+ 1.60	...
Rec Bond Acc	852.20	894.90	-11.40	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	251.70	265.00	+ 1.30	...
UK Equity Acc	369.70	389.20	+ 2.00	...
Special Sits	102.50	107.90	+ 0.60	...
Special Sits Acc	150.60	158.60	+ 1.00	...
North American	220.10	231.70	+ 4.50	...
N American Acc	323.40	340.50	+ 6.90	...
Pacific Basin	392.00	412.70	+ 6.10	...
Pacific Basin Acc	576.00	606.40	+ 9.30	..
Fixed Interest	297.00	312.70	- 2.30	...
Fixed Interest Acc	437.00	460.00	- 3.40	...
Property	179.70	189.20	+ 0.60	...
Property Acc	264.30	278.30	+ 1.10	...
Deposit	153.60	161.70	...	...
Deposit Acc	226.10	238.00	+ 0.20	...
Managed	286.10	301.20	+ 1.70	...
Managed Acc	387.40	407.80	+ 2.50	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomew House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9260 366				
Property	423.80	446.10	- 2.00	...
UK Equity	411.60	433.20	+ 1.10	...
Gilt Edged	633.00	666.90	- 3.80	...
Interest Fund	412.80	434.50	+ 0.70	...
Managed Fd	545.10	573.70	+ 3.30	...
Intl Equity	669.80	704.80	+ 6.80	...
North American	254.00	267.30	+ 4.20	...
Far East	505.90	532.50	+ 3.10	...
Intl Currency	266.10	280.10	- 0.70	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	560.20	589.60	+ 3.60	...
UK Equity	714.50	752.10	+ 4.40	...
Overseas Equity	568.40	598.30	+ 7.60	...
American	514.60	541.60	+13.20	...
Far East	656.50	691.00	+14.40	...
Property	218.30	229.70	...	...
Fixed Interest	426.10	448.50	- 2.10	...
Indexed Gilt	247.40	260.40	- 1.40	...
Deposit	227.00	238.90	+ 0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY – Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1642.40	1728.80	+11.70	...
Equity Fund	3608.80	3798.70	+25.10	...
Property Fd	600.20	631.80	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int Fd	655.60	690.10	- 4.00	...
Deposit Fund	367.20	386.50	+ 0.30	...
Intl Fund	284.10	299.10	+ 5.50	...
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	335.70	354.20	+ 3.00	...
Fxd Interest Acc	261.90	276.30	- 2.10	...
International Acc	275.40	290.60	+ 2.80	...
Managed Acc	244.80	258.30	+ 2.30	...
Property Acc	217.50	229.50	- 0.50	...
Money Acc	161.90	170.80	+ 0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	253.70	267.70	+ 4.30	...
Japan Equity Acc	129.90	137.10	+ 2.10	...
N Amer Acc	176.40	186.10	+ 4.40	...
Pacific Acc	176.70	186.40	+ 3.40	...
European Acc	198.90	209.80	+12.60	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470470				
Inv Prop Dist	144.60	152.30	- 0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	324.30	341.40	- 0.60	...
Inv Equity	1378.60	1451.20	+ 9.10	...
Inv Managed	965.10	1015.90	+ 5.80	...
Ret Managed	1099.50	1157.40	+ 6.60	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	394.20	410.70	+ 1.00	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3238				
Managed Fund	923.40	972.10	+ 7.60	...
Equity Fund	1778.20	1871.80	+16.50	...
Intl Fund	743.70	782.90	+ 9.20	...
Fixed Interest	617.30	649.80	- 2.30	...
Property Fund	489.00	514.80	...	...
Cash Fund	382.30	402.50	+ 0.30	...
Pacific Basin	424.20	446.60	+ 7.60	...
N American Fd	342.00	360.00	+ 4.90	...
Euro Fund	317.40	334.20	+ 2.20	...
Balanced Fund	180.80	190.40	- 1.60	...
Strategic Fund	194.70	205.00	+ 2.20	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) †	814.80	...	...	...
-do- Acc	475.80	500.80	...	...
Op Prop	501.70	528.10	- 0.10	...
Op Equity	1141.80	1201.80	- 2.10	...
Op High Yield	644.20	678	- 4.10	...
Op Managed	930.40	979.30	+ 2.40	...
Op Deposit	411.20	432.80	+ 0.40	...
Inc Gth	342.90	360.90	+ 4.50	...
Japan Smlr	255.20	268.60	- 0.70	...
Managed Gth	299.40	315.10	- 7.80	...
Gilt	88.30	92.90	- 0.70	...
British	434	456.80	+ 2.00	...
Global Bond	133	139.90	- 0.50	...
Global Inc & Gth	188.20	198.10	-14.30	...
Gold Share	102.90	108.30	+ 2.50	...
High Income	322.50	339.40	- 4.80	...
Income	487.30	512.90	- 9.10	...
Japan	448.80	472.40	+ 2.00	...
UK Smlr Cos	424.80	447.10	+11.10	...
Mngd Growth	524	551.50	+ 3.20	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	1112	1176.70	- 6.60	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	439	462.10	+ 2.60	...
Equity Fund	626.40	659.30	+ 2.10	...
Property Fund	335.20	352.80	+ 0.80	...
International	551.80	580.80	+ 6.60	...
Pacific Basin	302.10	317.90	+ 3.50	...
United States	327.60	344.80	+ 3.60	...
Gilt Fund	403.60	424.80	- 2.70	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	855.20	905.00	+ 1.90	2.21
Deposit Fund (2)	392.90	415.80	+ 0.30	6.90
Gilt Fund	572.60	606.00	- 2.30	7.91
Global Equity Fd	268.50	284.20	+ 3.50	...
Property Fund (4a)	116.70	123.50	...	7.21
AC Bond Fund	166.30	176.00	+ 3.40	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	682.70	718.70	+ 2.80	...
Fixed Interest	407.70	429.20	- 1.20	...
Index-Linked	208.90	219.90	- 0.90	...
International	523.50	551.10	+ 6.00	...
Property	303.20	319.20	+ 0.40	...
Cash	240.90	253.60	+ 0.20	...
Managed	532.80	560.90	+ 3.00	...
Cap Grntd Bd	132.60	139.60	+ 0.60	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	190.108	200.114	+ 0.19	...
Index-Linked	173.10	182.20	- 1.50	...
Fixed Interest	199.00	209.60	- 2.40	...
Mixed	294.30	309.90	+ 1.30	...
UK Equity	279.10	293.80	+ 0.50	...
International	297.80	313.60	+ 4.40	..
American	328.80	346.20	+ 7.30	...
Japan	244.20	257.20	- 3.80	...
European	301.40	317.30	+ 0.40	...
Pacific	399.30	420.30	+10.90	...
Technology	479.90	505.20	+ 5.00	...
Prpn Bd/Ccy	256.40	270.00	- 2.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	225.20	237.10	- 0.90	...
UK Equity	412.70	434.50	- 5.50	...
American	314.00	330.70	+ 6.70	...
Pacific	395.80	416.70	+ 3.90	...
European	550.90	580.00	+ 4.70	...
International	366.30	385.20	+ 4.70	...
Fixed Interest	258.70	272.40	- 0.80	...
Index Linked	210.50	221.70	- 0.40	...
Deposit	204.30	215.10	+ 0.10	...
Managed	329.40	346.90	+ 3.50	...
Worldwide	139.40	146.90	+ 1.90	...
Pen Worldwide	151.90	160.00	+ 2.40	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (3S)	1886.70	1945.10	...	...
Safety Fund	258.90	272.60	- 0.30	...
Growth Fund	266.00	280.00	+ 2.20	...
Opportunity Fd	267.10	281.20	+ 2.40	...
Cash Fund	182.20	191.80	+ 0.20	...
European Fund	393.50	414.30	+ 3.60	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	219.60	231.20	- 1.70	...
Index-Linked Fd	192.00	202.20	- 1.00	...
International Fd	327.10	344.40	+ 5.30	...
North American	288.90	304.20	+ 4.60	...
Property Fund	129.60	136.50	...	...
UK Equity	282.90	297.80	+ 2.60	...
UK Smaller	278.50	293.20	- 3.50	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	307.30	323.50	+ 2.60	...
Equity	324.90	342.10	+ 2.60	...
International	306.30	322.50	+ 5.10	...
Property	233.80	246.30	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	240.50	253.30	- 0.80	...
Index Linked	192.60	202.80	- 1.20	...
Cash	194.70	205.10	+ 0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	913.70	972.10	+ 8.70	...
Cash Fund	354.20	373.30	+ 0.30	...
Property Fund	298.70	314.80	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	1044.80	1111.50	+13.90	...
Fxd Interest Fund	509.60	537.00	+ 0.90	...
International	440.10	468.20	+ 7.80	...
High Income	812.20	864.10	+ 7.60	...
Far East	638.60	679.40	+10.70	...
North American	691.70	735.90	+13.10	...
Special Sits	758.30	806.80	+ 5.60	...
Technology	989.50	1052.70	+17.50	...
Extra Income Fd	444.70	473.10	+ 2.90	...
Gilt Fund	518.50	551.70	- 0.40	...
European	170.10	181.00	- 1.60	...
Adventurous Mg	266.40	280.50	+ 3.70	...
Secure Mgd	164.40	173.30	+ 0.60	...
Equity Inc Dist	129.80	136.80	+ 0.60	4.29
Managed Dist	119.00	125.50	+ 0.50	4.84
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1113.80	1113.80	+12.60	...
Inv Pol 2	1009.20	1062.40	+11.80	...
Inv Pol 3	958.70	1009.30	+10.90	...
Inv Cash	330.50	348.00	+ 0.20	...
Mixed Fund	519.10	546.60	+ 5.10	...
Equity Fund	617.60	650.20	+ 4.00	...
Property Fund	250.20	263.50	+ 1.20	...
International Fd	578.90	609.40	+ 9.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	413.90	435.80	- 2.80	...
Indexed Stock Fd	211.20	222.40	- 1.20	...
Cash Fund	239.00	251.60	+ 0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	434.70	457.50	+ 1.20	...
Equity Acc	527.10	554.80	- 0.50	...
International Acc	386.90	407.30	+ 3.60	...
Property	230.50	242.60	+ 0.40	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	280.90	295.70	+ 0.30	...
Equity	1188.10	1250.70	+11.70	...
European	189.70	199.70	+ 0.40	...
Far East	193.70	203.90	+ 4.00	...
Fixed Interest	438.90	462.00	- 6.20	...
Index Linked	224.80	236.70	- 2.20	...
International	705.50	742.50	+10.50	0.38
Managed	818.40	861.50	+ 8.10	...
Nth American	184.60	194.40	+ 4.00	...
Property	376.20	396.10	- 0.50	...
Pensions				
Cash	444.20	467.60	+ 0.60	...
Equity	1790.70	1885.00	+13.30	...
European	233.20	245.50	- 0.40	...
Far East	158.20	166.60	+ 3.30	...
Fixed Interest	618.30	650.90	- 8.00	...
Index Linked	319.30	331.00	- 3.00	...
International	1028.10	1082.30	+15.30	...
Managed	1196.10	1259.10	+10.30	...
Nth American	241.00	253.70	+ 6.00	...
Property	522.70	550.30	+ 1.20	...
Stock Exchange	271.30	285.60	+ 2.70	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	775.90	816.80	+ 7.60	...
Equity Fund	1029.10	1083.30	+10.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	448.30	471.70	- 2.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	340.10	358.00	- 1.60	...
Property Fund	528.70	557.60	- 0.80	...
International Fd	771.10	811.20	+ 9.20	...
N American Fd	331.80	349.30	+ 7.10	...
Far East Fund	271.70	286.00	+ 4.50	...
Deposit Fund	313.30	329.80	+ 0.30	...
Intnl Bd †	104.50	...	- 0.30	...
Worldwide Bond	177.70	187.10	- 0.80	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	191.90	202.00	+ 3.30	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	775.30	816.30	+ 5.40	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	515.50	542.60	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund †	615.50	...	- 0.70	...
-do- Acc †	571.80	...	- 0.70	...
Agricultural Fd †	862.80	...	+ 0.70	...
-do- Acc †	826.40	...	+ 0.60	...
Abbey Nat Fd †	460.30	...	- 0.20	...
Abbey Nat Acc †	484.50	...	- 0.20	...
Investment Fd †	414.70	...	+ 3.90	...
Investment (A) †	397.30	...	+ 3.70	...
Equity †	1505.90	...	+14.90	...
Equity Acc †	1437.90	...	+14.10	...
Money Fund †	502.20	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc †	478.90	...	+ 0.50	...
Actuarial Fd †	681.20	...	+ 5.30	...
Gilt-Edged Fd †	420.90	...	- 2.20	...
-do- Acc †	420.90	...	- 2.20	...
Retire Annuity †	1289.70	...	+ 6.70	...
Immed Annuity †	301.00	...	- 6.50	...
Bldg Soc Life †	237.80	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basing View, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc †	1688.50	...	+ 2.30	...
Managed Acc †	951.40	...	+ 0.40	...
Equity Account †	1376.60	...	- 2.70	...
Mngd Fund Acc	435.20	458.20	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund Acc	597.80	629.30	- 1.30	...
Prop Fund Acc	267.80	281.80	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	340.40	358.30	- 2.30	...
Money Fund Acc	231.40	243.60	+ 0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	218.90	230.40	- 0.20	...
Pers Pens Acct †	2172.20	...	- 2.10	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1009.60	1062.80	- 1.00	...
Pens Guarantee	276.20	290.80	+ 0.40	...
Pens Equity	388.70	409.20	- 2.00	...
Pens Property	311.70	328.10	+ 0.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	320.30	337.10	- 2.40	...
Pens Intl	287.70	302.80	+ 3.40	...
Pens Money	251.60	264.80	+ 0.10	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	210.00	221.10	- 1.40	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1015.30	1068.80	+ 6.20	...
Property Acc	325.60	342.80	- 4.50	...
Equity Acc	1666.10	1753.80	+ 2.70	...
Fixed Int Acc	441.30	464.60	- 0.80	...
Cash Acc	324.50	341.60	+ 0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	481.10	506.30	+16.20	...
Japan Acc	315.00	331.60	+ 5.30	...
Pacific Acc	426.50	449.00	+ 9.60	...
Far Eastern Acc	939.60	989.10	+18.90	...
International Acc	691.30	727.70	+10.10	...
Distribution Fund	292.50	307.90	+ 0.80	5.85
European	216.60	228.00	+ 2.50	...
Defrd Dist	187.20	197.10	+ 1.00	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	325.90	343.10	+ 3.40	...
Property Fund	234.40	246.80	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	245.50	258.50	- 1.50	...
Money Fund	210.00	221.10	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	426.30	448.80	+ 5.20	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	793.30	835.90	+ 4.30	...
Money Fund	332.60	350.10	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	715.80	753.40	+ 4.60	...
Fixed Interest	308.60	324.80	- 1.50	...
Property Fund	351.90	370.40	...	...
Gresham Pramlington				
American & Gnrl	692.80	730.00	+13.50	...
Income	847.30	892.80	- 8.70	...
International Gth	707.00	745.00	+ 6.90	...
Capital Fund	706.40	744.40	+ 5.20	...
Recovery Fund	666.70	702.50	+ 4.80	...
Japan & General	280.20	295.30	+ 1.40	...
Formerly Athena				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.92	19.92	+ 0.04	...
Bear	21.94	23.09	- 0.10	...
Owl	23.90	25.16	+ 0.03	...
Bull	20.51	21.59	+ 0.06	...
Stag	21.41	22.54	+ 0.16	...
Gilt Edged	20.28	21.35	- 0.26	...
Deposit	16.46	17.33	+ 0.02	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	26.13	27.51	+ 0.07	...
Bear	31.05	32.68	- 0.18	...
Owl	33.38	35.14	- 0.05	...
Bull	27.17	28.60	+ 0.15	...
Stag	27.87	29.34	+ 0.35	...
Gilt Edged	25.91	27.27	- 0.35	...
Deposit	21.64	22.78	+ 0.05	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	669.63	...	+ 1.95	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	397.49	418.40	- 0.22	...
N Amer Equity	354.34	372.98	+14.15	...
Far East Equity	421.37	443.55	+13.60	...
Fixed	321.21	338.12	- 4.13	...
Cash Deposit	214.62	225.92	+ 0.40	...
Property	146.76	154.48	- 1.43	...
Special Opp	403.31	424.54	+ 3.02	...
Managed	353.12	371.71	+ 1.07	...
Index-Linked Fd	201.56	212.19	- 2.14	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	671.20	706.00	+ 5.30	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	401.40	422.50	- 4.00	...
Life Equity Acc	920.90	969.30	-20.80	...
Life Money Acc	312.40	328.80	- 1.40	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	842.10	886.40	-31.30	...
Life Intl Acc	532.00	560.00	-26.80	...
Life High Inc Acc	869.30	915.40	-21.40	...
Life Property Acc	254.40	267.80	-17.60	...
Crown Brit Inv A	1416.60	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	817.20	860.20	+ 0.20	...

THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Societies blind to innocent eye

From Miss H. A. Bolland

Sir, As teenagers we are encouraged to save money in bank and building society accounts. We are enticed with free offers and gifts, such as CDs, driving lessons, etc. We are encouraged to own plastic hole-in-the-wall cards so that we can withdraw money at any time.

In my own case, I have had two accounts with the N&P Building Society. These accounts are in my sole name. I am the only person able to pay moneys into these accounts, or withdraw from them. Apparently, I am legally entitled, and thought responsible enough, to handle my own finances, although, by personal preference, I do not have a plastic card.

Imagine my total disgust, therefore (as a consequence of Abbey National's takeover of N&P), when I was informed by Lord Shuttleworth, chairman of the building society, that, as a consequence of my being under 18, I do not have a vote, and therefore will miss out on the sweeteners being paid out to voters to entice them to vote in favour of the takeover.

I reckon... if they're old enough to know all about us, they're old enough to vote
N&P
GED

Surely, if we teenagers are old enough to open and manage our own accounts, if we are old enough to have plastic cards, if we are old enough to use our own signatures, then we are old enough to vote? Surely, the consequences of this vote will have as many ramifications for our money as it will have on our elders and peers?

What right have building societies to disenfranchise us from something which they enticed us to join in the first place? If they are happy to take our money, why won't they take our democratic decision?

Perhaps they fear the innocence of youth seeing straight through their greed.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN A. BOLLAND,
15a Middleton Road,
Middleton,
Near Morecambe,
Lancashire.

New odds mean buying a Pep is better bet than Premium Bonds

From Mr J.B. Hoyle

Sir, I read with some dismay the article by Sara McConnell on the future of Premium Bonds (Treasury to cut back on Ernie's nice little earners, Weekend Money, January 27). The fact that the upsurge in purchases followed the introduction of the £1 million jackpot does not surprise me. However, that the majority of customers preferred more medium and larger prizes to the inevitable detriment of the number of prizes seems to me to take the response of customers at face value. I wonder if those surveyed had been aware that more large prizes would mean a reduction in the number of prizes, whether their replies would have changed.

I purchased a large block of Premium Bonds just over a year ago. This was the result of reading articles that stated that if the maximum holding was purchased it was likely that a prize would be won each month. The implication being that with a little luck you ought to produce, at least, similar results to placing the money in a building society and there was an outside chance of a very good return. The changes have changed the probablilities and Premium Bonds are no longer an investment but a pure lottery. It seems to me that the money will be far better, with these new odds, to be used to purchase a Pep.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN B. HOYLE,
22 Montfort Road,
Coleshill,
Birmingham.

● Letters are welcomed but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

You just can't count on benefit

From Mrs M. Shimmin

Sir, My husband took early retirement in 1991 and his company pension became payable immediately, albeit at a reduced level.

When he tried to register for unemployment, having paid NI contributions for 40 years, he was told that the company pension rendered him not entitled to unemployment benefit because it took his income over the limit allowed. He has never been registered for unemployment, although he has sought work since this time, so will never appear in any government statistics. I suggest that he and many like him might constitute the "gap" in the official (and conflicting) unemployment figures.

Yours faithfully,
M. SHIMMIN,
16 Castle Street,
Ludgershall, Hampshire.

Pension wrongs

From Mr J. Pincham

Sir, Leaving a public company in 1971 after 19 years, my pension rights were lost. Yet, at 39, the prospect of staying for a further 26 years to get a good pension was not attractive.

The widow of a colleague in a subsequent pension scheme lost her pension rights because her husband, dying from a brain tumour before reaching 65, failed to give notice of early retirement. Should I become afflicted with a fatal complaint before that magical age, I hope to have sufficient time and wit to give the appropriate notice. Giving notice now would deprive me of the terminal bonus.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PINCHAM,
35 Lodge Close,
Stoke D'Abernon,
Cobham, Surrey.

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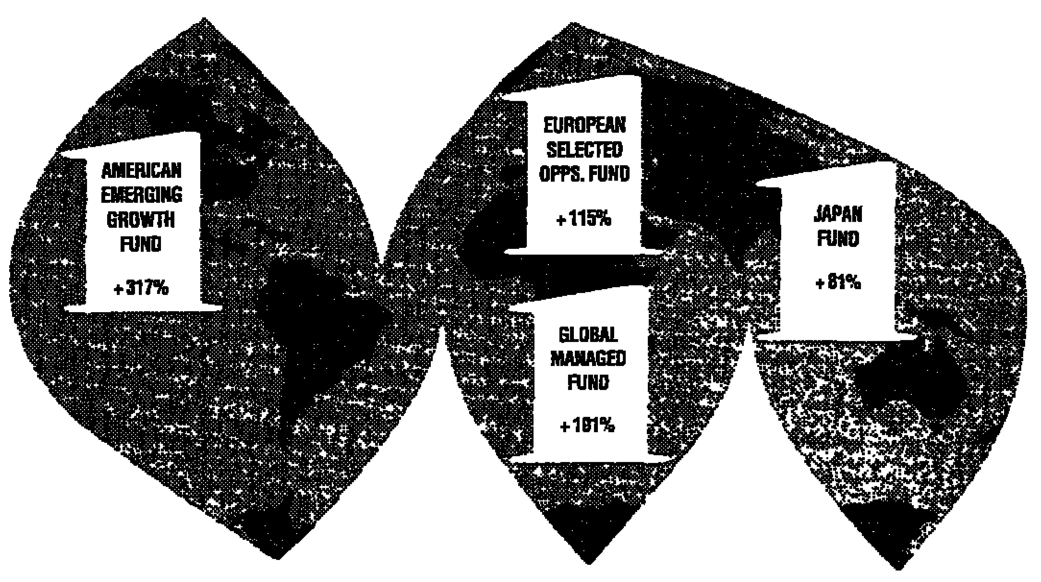
51	£8,895.35
52	£8,542.66
53	£8,189.97
54	£7,837.28
55	£7,484.59
56	£7,036.14
57	£6,587.69
58	£6,139.24
59	£5,690.79
60	£5,242.34
61	£4,848.79
62	£4,455.24
63	£4,061.69
64	£3,668.14
65	£3,274.59
66	£2,758.99
67	£2,243.39
68	£1,727.79
69	£1,212.19
70	£696.59

** Comparison with the leading private medical insurer illustrating the savings realised without automatic age increases.*

Figures shown are BEFORE any premium increases resulting from rises in medical inflation

Out And Out Growth Outside The UK.


AMERICAN EMERGING GROWTH FUND +317%
EUROPEAN SELECTED OPPS. FUND +115%
JAPAN FUND +81%
GLOBAL MANAGED FUND +181%

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CHECK THESE NEW RATES*

	GROSS INTEREST RATE	AFTER BASIC RATE TAX	AFTER HIGHER RATE TAX
Nationwide	4.7%	3.5%	2.1%
Woolwich	4.6%	3.4%	2.1%
Halifax	4.5%	3.3%	2.0%
Allied Dunbar Extra Income PEP	7.3%	7.3%	7.3%

With all corporate bond PEPs, the value of your investment and income from it can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. The above building society information refers to interest rates for deposits of £10,000 - £24,999 held in 90 day accounts.

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Our* charges are exceptionally low, which means that the money in your Allied Dunbar Extra Income PEP will be working very hard – *for you.

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Call free for an application pack on
0800 888 666
Any time between 7am-10pm, 7 days a week.
73B

For the life you don't yet know

ALLIED DUNBAR

*All these rates are variable and therefore will change over time. They are correct at the time of going to press. The projected total yield of 7.3% is the current anticipated annual level of income you may receive if the underlying investments are held to maturity. This rate has been calculated in accordance with guidelines set down by The Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds (AUTIF). The value of units, as well as the income they produce, can fall as well as rise. Allied Dunbar Unit Trusts plc is a member of the Allied Dunbar Marketing Group. It is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Allied Dunbar Unit Trusts plc. Registered in England number 395998. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Company's registered office at Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL. The tax position of personal equity plans depends on individual circumstances and the Law and Inland Revenue Practice which are, of course, subject to change. This product is only available in mainland UK. For your security, all telephone calls to Allied Dunbar (on the above number) will be recorded.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST [illegible]

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grotland Amer	208.30	218.40	+ 6.50	0.27
Grotland Equity	276.10	293.70	+ 1.10	1.89
Grotland Euro	254.10	268.90	+ 2.10	0.80
Grotland Expl Bd	131.10	135.80		5.14
Grotland Gilt	77.15	79.54	+ 0.58	4.87
Grotland Japan	182.20	192.80	+ 1.70	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	636.30	677.00	+ 6.70	2.49
General Inc	546.60	581.50	+ 5.60	2.49
UK Growth Acc	430.90	458.50	+ 4.90	2.69
UK Growth Inc	287.00	305.40	+ 3.20	2.63
Higher Inc Acc	784.90	835.00	+ 4.90	4.06
Higher Inc Inc	436.80	464.70	+ 2.70	4.06
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	207.80	219.40	- 1.30	5.37
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	95.54	100.90	- 0.50	5.37
Nth America	352.50	375.00	+ 10.40	
Europe	332.70	354.00	+ 3.50	0.57
Brit Excel	85.89	91.38	- 0.07	2.83
Brit Fndmtls Acc	114.20	121.50	+ 0.50	4.61
Brit Fndmtls Inc	79.98	85.09	+ 0.40	4.61
Global Opps	100.20	106.60	+ 1.30	0.16
Balanced Acc	62.42	66.41	+ 0.51	2.67
Balanced Inc	59.73	63.56	+ 0.50	2.87
Japan Acc	48.35	51.44	+ 0.28	
Pac Basin Acc	432.90	460.60	+ 13.10	0.72
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.40	140.50	- 0.80	7.12
High Inc Equity	178.80	191.20†	- 0.40	4.40
Worldwide Bond	292.00	309.60†	- 6.30	4.52
American Growth	352.30	376.60†	+ 8.40	0.58
Asian Pacific	354.70	378.80	+ 6.10	0.11
Assets & Earnings	296.00	314.90	+ 3.50	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	167.70	179.30	+ 1.60	0.58
Extra Inc	44.57	47.41	+ 0.02	8.49
General	270.70	289.00†	- 1.10	2.83
Global Opps	64.12	68.21	+ 1.07	0.44
Japan	129.90	138.90	+ 1.30	
Managed Inc	48.10	51.17†	+ 0.06	4.54
Mastertrust	163.40	174.80	+ 2.40	1.40
US Emerging Cos	182.50	194.20	+ 2.90	
Ethical	76.18	81.04	- 1.32	2.50
International	135.80	144.50	+ 1.40	0.71
Dividend & Growth	66.54	70.79†	+ 0.21	4.34
Global Gwth & Sec	71.58	76.48	+ 0.07	2.46
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2051.00	2134.00	+ 26.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.54	60.79	+ 1.68	0.50
Cash	50.46	50.46	+ 0.05	5.80
Emerging Mkts	73.88	78.29	+ 1.37	0.04
European	134.10	139.50†	+ 2.00	
Exempt	1029.90	1095.70†	+ 7.30	1.70
Extra Income #	48.66	52.21	+ 0.41	6.51
Far East Emg Eco	134.10	140.80	+ 3.00	0.44
Fixed Interest #	23.66	24.60†	- 0.52	9.55
Fund Inv Tst	162.10	170.30†	- 0.70	9.14
Japan	191.40	199.10	+ 0.50	
Latin American	57.04	59.77	+ 2.29	0.82
Pacific	88.73	93.17	+ 1.59	0.28
Property Share	63.12	66.26†	- 0.39	2.65
UK Emerging Cos	69.27	74.18†	- 0.01	1.67
UK Growth	50.72	53.63	+ 0.78	2.19
Aber World Port #	81.80	83.34	+ 1.48	1.97
Ethical	76.23	79.28	+ 0.45	2.22
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	51.13	51.13	- 0.08	7.34
For AEGON see Mattecon				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5888				
Restd Property	94.02	101.00†	- 4.00	5.31
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	85.09	90.28	+ 0.18	2.25
Income Builder Inc	78.44	83.45	+ 0.72	2.74
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	268.20	286.70	+ 4.00	3.24
Capital	472.50	506.00	+ 7.00	1.24
Balanced	776.40	829.90†	+ 12.20	2.51
Accumulation	1488.00	1590.00	+ 20.00	1.96
Income Trusts				
American Income	59.64	63.89†	+ 1.08	2.50
High Income	441.30	471.70	+ 4.70	4.01
Equity Income	244.10	260.90†	+ 2.60	4.05
High Yield	265.40	283.70	+ 2.70	4.12
Govt Securities	34.70	36.61	- 0.20	5.96
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	201.20	214.50	+ 4.20	0.05
European Growth	45.22	48.17	+ 0.65	0.08
International	190.50	203.60†	+ 3.10	0.11
Japan	212.20	226.80†	+ 1.60	
Pacific	444.40	475.00	+ 10.50	
Secs of America	555.50	591.40	+ 14.40	0.13
Worldw Asset Val	56.02	59.88	+ 0.62	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	592.20	633.00	+ 7.00	1.59
Conv & Gilt	45.90	49.05†	+ 0.40	4.42
Smaller Cos	193.80	207.10†	+ 0.60	1.08
2nd Smaller Cos	184.00	196.60	+ 0.80	0.94
Recovery	157.00	167.80	+ 1.40	1.68
Met Min & Cdty	181.50	194.00	+ 8.70	0.16
Oseas Earnings	400.40	428.00†	+ 7.50	1.17
Technology	212.60	227.20†	+ 2.80	
UK Special Sits	543.00	580.40†	+ 5.20	1.08
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	114.50	118.90	+ 1.90	3.64
Founder Pens Pens	68.73	71.40	+ 1.16	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	79.77	84.86†	+ 1.48	1.73
International	70.82	75.34	+ 0.39	..
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	320.40	342.90	+ 9.10	
Bond	119.50	125.80†	- 1.00	6.69
Brit Smlr Cos	112.40	119.60†	+ 1.30	1.71
Conv & Gen #	69.51	73.95	- 1.17	5.34
Europe	254.50	270.40	+ 3.90	0.61
Euro Smlr Cos	113.80	121.30	+ 2.30	0.63
Income Gwth	381.50	405.90	+ 0.30	3.79
Japan	332.40	353.90	+ 0.10	
Latin American	82.46	87.72	+ 2.79	0.90
Pacific	121.60	129.40†	+ 2.60	1.11
UK Smlr Cos	57.77	61.46†	- 0.17	1.30
Japan Fd	700.50	722.30	+ 1.80	
Mngd Fd	197.30	209.60	+ 2.30	2.83
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	353.80	379.00	+ 8.10	8.96
Capital Gwth	124.10	131.30	+ 0.70	2.49
Wwide Opps	220.20	232.90	+ 4.10	0.92
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Brit Inv Fd Inc	401.20	418.08	+ 5.20	2.54
European Bd Inc	95.59	98.95†	- 0.57	6.87
Exempt	80.04	85.38	+ 0.11	3.96
Financial	94.89	101.50	- 0.40	2.45
500	485.90	525.20	+ 0.40	2.61
General	308.20	330.90	+ 1.30	2.50
Property	240.50	258.10†		6.47
Trustee	213.70	228.00†	+ 1.50	2.23
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.40	100.40†	+ 0.10	5.64
Extra Income #	132.10	141.30	+ 0.70	4.86
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.14	61.24	- 0.43	8.07
Income #	573.10	612.90†	+ 2.10	4.70
Income Builder #	68.96	73.56	+ 0.12	5.34
Intl Income	70.78	75.30†	+ 0.94	2.39
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	135.70	144.70	+ 0.28	2.02
Leisure	159.10	170.20	+ 0.90	0.92
Recovery	461.80	493.90	+ 4.10	2.72
Smllr Cos Inc	51.15	54.86	+ 0.22	2.17
Special Sits	353.60	378.20	+ 3.90	1.33
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	165.60	176.90	+ 3.80	0.30
Aust Acc	291.30	300.30	+ 8.60	1.92
Aust Inc	169.60	181.10	+ 5.20	1.92
Euro Gwth Inc	175.60	186.40	+ 1.90	0.58
-do- Accum	189.60	201.20	+ 2.00	0.58
Japan & Gen Inc	163.30	172.80	- 0.90	
-do- Accum	165.10	174.80	- 0.90	
Japan Spec Sits	74.33	79.25	- 0.21	
Worldwide	195.70	207.80†	+ 3.30	0.52
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	124.10	131.20	+ 4.40	
Amer Smllr Cos	152.20	163.00	+ 0.10	
Convertibles	57.66	61.94†	+ 0.70	5.48
Eastern	332.50	359.90	+ 11.10	0.30
Equity Income	91.70	98.10†	+ 0.82	3.80
European Growth	345.10	366.50	+ 9.20	0.80
Europe	291.50	309.50	+ 7.30	1.90
German Growth	86.31	91.42	+ 0.53	0.50
Global Bond	70.38	74.05†	+ 0.11	6.50
Global Growth	147.60	157.10	+ 2.50	0.50
Japan Growth	217.50	225.40	+ 0.90	
Japan Smaller	168.30	179.10	+ 2.30	
Korea Trust	76.57	83.27	+ 2.47	
Portfolio	143.40	153.20	+ 1.00	2.30
-do- Accum	267.10	285.60	+ 1.90	2.30
UK Growth	94.21	100.90	+ 1.42	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	86.16	93.94	+ 0.86	2.50
Select Managers	86.20	92.41	+ 1.02	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	90.01	95.76†	+ 1.16	
Special Oppor Inc	62.52	66.52†	+ 0.36	
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0141 223 8020				
Balanced Growth	129.52	137.04	+ 0.97	1.50
-do- Accum	148.18	156.89	+ 1.11	1.50
Smaller Cos	131.39	139.04	+ 4.75	0.70
Higher Yield #	52.69	55.76†	+ 0.13	4.35
American Gth Inc	92.64	98.03†	+ 3.05	
European Growth	148.78	157.44	+ 3.00	0.30
-do- Accum	151.71	160.54	+ 3.06	0.30
Global Bond Inc #	27.89	29.90	- 0.27	7.00
Mngd Ptolio Inc	50.17	53.08	+ 0.78	1.37
-do- Accum	51.45	54.42	+ 0.78	1.37
Int Spec Opps	152.58	161.47	+ 5.06	..
Pacific Gth	156.62	165.73	+ 7.79	0.31
UK General #	87.56	92.68†	+ 0.95	3.22
-do- Accum #	92.11	97.47	+ 0.93	3.22
Japan	62.09	65.34†	+ 1.04	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	102.25	105.96	- 0.65	8.29
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	68.27	69.15	- 0.14	6.14
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Europe	175.50	186.70	+ 2.10	1.71
UK Growth	193.70	206.10†	+ 0.70	1.97
UK Income	145.20	154.43	+ 0.20	4.17
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	224.10	237.60†	+ 3.80	1.67
-do- Income Dist	120.70	127.90	+ 0.90	3.91
-do- Accum	379.60	402.60	+ 3.00	3.91
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.97	43.43	- 1.25	6.35
Growth Units	237.00	253.40	+ 2.10	2.03
Bond	179.10	189.90	- 1.20	7.10
Intl Growth	245.20	260.90	+ 4.70	0.21
North American	246.30	261.60	+ 6.80	0.31
Far East	330.10	353.10	+ 10.60	0.60
UK Smaller Cos	263.80	278.00	+ 1.60	1.28
European	93.37	99.17	+ 1.10	0.66
Japanese Growth	49.77	52.64	+ 0.41	
High Income	212.50	227.90	+ 1.00	3.91
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	200.10	212.90	+ 6.10	
European Inc	89.55	94.79	+ 1.78	0.85
Smaller Cos (4-1)	96.56	102.73	+ 0.25	1.45
Growth	497.10	528.90	+ 8.20	1.73
Income & Growth #	446.00	474.50†	+ 6.00	3.81
-do- Accum #	659.30	701.40	+ 9.10	3.81
Japan & Gen	72.30	76.74	+ 0.76	
Master Portfolio	£113.55	£117.22†	+ 149.00	2.12
-do- Accum	£138.32	£142.79	+ 181.00	2.12
Special Sits	115.20	122.60†	+ 1.90	1.82
High Yield	£14.46	£14.93	+ 12.00	4.27

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97.89	104.31†	+ 0.66	2.46
American Portfolio	118.03	125.27	+ 2.60	0.92
European Portfolio	117.91	125.54	+ 1.94	0.47
High Income	51.68	51.80†	- 0.06	7.59
Japanese Portfolio	70.74	75.20†	- 0.11	.
Pacific Portfolio	164.42	176.88	+ 3.57	1.38
UK Inc & Growth	92.41	98.88	+ 0.79	2.88
Uldtg & Bond	58.22	58.67	+ 0.59	6.55
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	739.65	750.03	- 1.70	4.29
Fxd Int Sec	158.79	159.43	- 0.97	8.97
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	735.84	746.96	...	4.34
Investment Acc	132.81	133.31		.
Fixed Int Inc	129.29	139.81		8.86
Fixed Int Acc	219.59	220.87		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	96.92	102.25	- 0.24	2.90
Beck Bio-Tech	53.70	57.10†	+ 2.86	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	168.50	176.94	- 2.77	0.61
City Fin Assets	77.72	81.61	- 0.06	2.05
City Fin America	115.22	120.99	+ 3.10	...
City Fin Intl	93.20	97.87	+ 1.47	0.82
City Fin Japan	156.50	164.34†	+ 3.98	..
Friars Hse Cap	305.67	320.87†	+ 3.60	2.30
Friars Hse Inc	200.78	213.57	+ 0.74	4.16
Buckley Wrld Gilt	142.80	151.37	+ 2.27	
Fairmnt Cap Gth	150.12	158.02	+ 2.02	..
Fairmount Intl	163.92	170.55	+ 2.83	
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	57.60	58.94†	+ 0.27	1.57
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	60.04	63.70†	+ 0.78	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	76.80	81.70	+ 2.00	
Dragon Growth	77.17	82.53	+ 1.86	0.46
Equity High Inc	90.34	98.11	+ 0.51	4.01
-do- Accum	126.28	134.34	+ 0.70	4.01
Extra Income Inc	26.65	28.05†	- 0.17	7.05
Extra Income Acc	28.07	29.54	- 0.18	7.05
European Gwth	60.24	63.97	+ 0.73	0.99
Evergreen	30.05	32.13	+ 0.13	
General Equity	97.75	103.69	+ 0.63	2.85
Japan Growth	53.68	57.11	+ 0.51	
Pentagon Gwth	59.19	62.97	+ 0.74	2.54
Ped Smr Cos Inc	34.69	36.90	+ 0.04	1.52
-do- Accum	36.52	38.85	+ 0.03	1.52
Retirement Inc #	37.93	39.71	+ 0.01	5.64
Special Sits	44.62	47.47	+ 0.40	1.99
UK & Overseas	57.70	61.32	+ 0.82	0.68
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	65.53	69.30	- 0.58	4.05
Capital	78.58	81.85	+ 1.09	1.86
High Income	51.37	53.51	- 1.13	
Top 50	53.37	55.59	+ 0.45	.
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	179.15	190.58	+ 0.86	4.59
Fixed & Convertible	41.57	44.22†	+ 0.04	6.66
Monthly Inc Plus	49.89	53.07	- 0.46	8.44
Preference Share	46.19	49.14†	- 1.16	7.73
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	133.73	142.27†	- 0.01	5.71
Managed Fund	75.95	80.80	+ 0.94	2.91
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	45.28	48.17	+ 0.36	1.69
-do- Accum	52.71	56.07	+ 0.43	1.69
UK & General	91.23	97.05	+ 1.16	2.63
-do- Accum	117.08	124.55	+ 1.48	2.63
UK Growth	171.54	182.49	+ 0.77	2.32
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	207.98	221.26	+ 4.02	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	145.43	154.71	+ 2.87	
Global Bond	85.90	91.38	- 0.60	5.79
Japan Growth	120.44	128.13	+ 0.98	
North Amer Gth	225.35	239.63	+ 7.74	
Oriental Growth	90.37	96.14	+ 2.07	0.06
Worldwide Growth	74.90	79.68	+ 1.53	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.94	92.94	+ 0.08	5.57
Homemaker Fund	97.22	97.04†	+ 0.88	1.56
Quilter Fund	150.57	160.18†	+ 0.97	1.94
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	33.83	36.22†	- 0.28	3.42
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	174.60	185.70	+ 3.50	1.34
Income	71.38	75.93†	- 0.11	5.56
European	69.83	74.07	+ 0.89	0.47
Recovery	169.40	180.20	+ 1.70	1.81
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	933.40	948.60	+ 22.00	3.53
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	97.01	103.20	+ 0.10	1.45
Income #	277.20	294.80	+ 2.50	4.06
-do- Accum #	710.80	756.10	+ 6.40	4.06
Smaller Cos	207.70	220.90†	+ 0.70	1.04
-do- Accum	256.80	273.10	+ 0.80	1.04
Inv Portfolio	95.13	101.20†	+ 0.88	1.49
High Inc Port #	79.59	84.67	+ 0.39	4.21
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1608.00	1661.70	+ 6.30	.
Japan Small Cos	1321.70	1348.30	+ 72.10	.
UK Small Cos	1970.50	2051.80†	+ 7.30	...
US Small Cos	2013.40	2056.80	+ 36.90	
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	223.80	236.50		2.99
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	313.20	330.80	+ 6.30	0.64
New Asia	253.70	270.70	+ 5.10	0.21
Japan Growth	115.20	122.70	+ 8.50	
Jap Smllr Co	473.10	503.90	+ 5.70	
Nth Amer	379.80	404.90	+ 12.90	0.73
UK Inc & Gth	239.90	255.90	+ 0.90	2.77
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	159.30	169.40†	+ 1.30	1.91
UK High Inc Inc	168.20	178.90	+ 0.70	3.82
-do- Accum	222.90	237.10	+ 0.80	3.82
UK Pref & F I Inc	59.66	63.36†	- 0.52	5.84
Emerging Opps	94.47	100.50	+ 0.50	1
UK Smlr Cos #	61.67	65.60	- 0.48	0.80
Extra Income Inc	48.59	51.69	- 0.80	7.89
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
American	165.70	175.80	+ 4.10	0.46
Convertibles #	22.15	23.53	+ 0.39	5.95
Equity Income #	139.20	147.90	+ 2.20	4.06
Eurofund	58.57	59.97†	+ 1.12	0.33
Financial	52.56	55.85	+ 0.87	1.34
Growth & Inc #	270.80	287.70†	- 0.70	2.88
High Dist #	174.10	185.00	+ 1.90	4.59
International	446.80	474.70	+ 7.50	0.11
Int Cap Inc	105.40	112.50†	+ 1.40	2.93
Latin American	31.92	33.91	+ 1.23	.
Pacific	92.96	98.77	+ 2.74	.
Pref High Inc	22.03	23.41†	+ 0.07	7.05
Tokyo	243.40	258.30	+ 2.49	...
UK Smaller Cos	247.00	262.40	- 1.70	1.34
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Brit Director Dlgs	104.07	110.83	- 0.04	1.25
Growth Acc	248.47	265.41		0.69
Income	582.21	620.29†	+ 1.12	5.47
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	225.60	240.00	+ 1.10	1.10
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	90.30	95.75	+ 1.62	1.82
Ethical Tst	47.51	50.43†	- 0.09	1.19
Far Eastern	330.40	347.79	+ 4.83	1.56
High Income	139.58	146.93	+ 1.05	4.71
Intl Growth	135.65	142.79	+ 1.46	0.39
North American	140.65	148.05	+ 2.63	1.46
Pelican	135.07	142.18	+ 2.44	3.14
Smaller Cos	69.23	72.87	+ 1.03	2.83
Special Sits	90.79	95.57	+ 4.14	3.06
Tst of Inv Tsts	209.67	220.71	+ 2.97	1.09
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	209.43	222.80	- 0.33	1.27
Smaller Cos Acc	370.63	394.29	- 0.59	1.27
Recovery	53.24	56.54	+ 0.21	1.50
Recovery Acc	54.53	58.01	+ 0.21	1.50
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	87.87	94.23	- 0.15	
Fd of Inv Tsts	51.02	54.42	+ 0.42	0.53
High Income #	39.53	42.36†	- 0.15	10.86
Warrant	56.15	61.02	+ 0.16	
Zero Preference	42.12	44.63	- 0.07	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	65.51	69.26†	+ 0.56	3.47
Family Income Tst	46.45	46.45†	+ 0.60	6.69
Family Trust	94.08	100.00†	+ 1.40	2.63
United Charities	275.90	293.90	+ 1.50	4.09
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.90
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	28.20	28.29	- 0.12	7.06
Intl Bond	30.19	31.32†	- 0.15	5.36
Income Funds				
High Income	25.80	27.11†	- 0.03	5.32
Income Plus	123.90	131.80	+ 1.00	4.02
Amer Eq Inc	60.60	64.20†	+ 1.12	1.38
European Income	47.02	50.00	+ 0.57	2.30
Far East Inc	68.10	72.47	+ 0.56	2.27
Global Convertible	25.04	26.62	+ 0.11	2.62
UK Div Gth	28.83	30.66	+ 0.51	2.21
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	75.05	80.06	+ 1.48	.
American	322.30	341.20	+ 8.10	
Amer Spec Sits	167.50	178.90	+ 2.29	.
Japan Smaller Cos	37.68	40.20	+ 0.32	.
European	205.30	218.30	+ 2.60	0.62
European Opps	72.91	77.53	+ 0.57	0.14
Global Ptw	30.14	32.05	+ 0.74	0.70
UK Growth	109.90	116.90	+ 2.50	1.22
Growth & Inc	163.50	173.90†	+ 3.00	2.78
Intl PEP	44.57	47.33	+ 0.85	1.02
Japan Spec Sits	95.72	102.00†	+ 1.90	..
Japan	191.10	203.10	+ 1.10	
Managed Intl	334.80	356.00	+ 6.40	0.42
Moneybuilder	62.73	66.70	+ 0.85	.
Recovery	52.75	56.09	+ 0.68	1.38
South E Asia	190.70	203.50	+ 4.80	0.55
Special Sits	631.70	671.70	+ 9.80	0.69
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	112.86	112.86	+ 0.08	5.90
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	150.40	153.20	+ 1.50	1.92
Inc Ptolio #	92.48	94.10	+ 0.59	3.28
Cap Ptolio	160.20	163.50†	+ 1.80	1.42
General Oppr.	137.90	139.60	+ 0.90	4.93
Growth Inc	35.12	35.80	+ 0.48	1.10
Private Portfolio	477.60	487.70	+ 8.30	1.74
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 261 010				
Euro Smllr Cos	134.60	143.00	+ 1.70	0.62
Emrg Asian	162.60	173.90	+ 1.80	..
High Income	21.26	23.12†	+ 0.03	9.73
UK Income	111.50	118.50	+ 0.60	4.22
US Smaller Cos	394.90	420.90	+ 6.60	
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	80.08	84.21	+ 0.63	3.04
Investment Trust	105.44	110.87	+ 1.44	.
UK Smaller Cos	97.11	102.11†	+ 0.56	1

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	74.62	79.44	+ 1.86	
-do- Accum	74.62	79.44	+ 1.86	
Amer Smlr Cos	636.80	681.10	+ 14.50	
-do- Accum	650.60	695.80	+ 14.80	
Capital Tst	354.30	376.90	+ 3.40	1.27
-do- Accum	514.80	547.40	+ 4.80	1.27
Contl Smlr Cos	60.84	64.94	+ 0.94	0.79
-do- Accum	64.20	68.52	+ 0.99	0.79
Convertible	136.50	145.20†	+ 0.90	5.18
-do- Accum	289.50	308.00†	+ 1.60	5.19
Emerging Markets	70.79	75.63	+ 1.59	..
-do- Accum	71.03	75.89	+ 1.60	..
European	133.80	141.70	+ 2.29	0.16
-do- Accum	140.80	149.10	+ 2.40	0.16
Extra Income	369.83	393.20†	+ 2.80	3.62
-do- Accum	575.30	612.00†	+ 3.00	3.62
Financial	154.70	164.60	+ 1.30	0.59
-do- Accum	163.80	174.30	+ 1.40	0.59
Gilt Trust	65.20	67.23	- 0.25	5.97
-do- Accum	96.82	99.81	- 0.38	5.87
Health Fund Inc	264.40	282.50	+ 6.10	.
-do- Accum	264.40	282.50	+ 6.10	.
Income & Growth	219.30	233.30	+ 3.10	2.97
-do- Accum	342.70	364.60	+ 4.60	2.97
Intl Growth	419.10	445.90	+ 5.00	.
-do- Accum	465.40	495.40	+ 5.60	.
Japan & Gen	185.60	197.60	+ 1.10	...
-do- Accum	187.50	199.60	+ 1.10	...
Monthly Inc #	184.50	196.30†	+ 3.90	3.42
Managed Port Inc	115.40	121.50	- 0.80	1.74
-do- Accum	123.90	130.40	- 0.90	1.74
Quarterly Income #	55.10	58.62	+ 0.16	4.23
-do- Accum #	61.09	64.99	+ 0.18	4.23
Recovery	358.30	383.20†	+ 3.50	0.61
-do- Accum	422.90	452.30†	+ 4.10	0.61
UK Growth	61.91	65.85	+ 0.81	2.04
-do- Accum	65.81	69.80	+ 0.86	2.04
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	57.97	61.67	+ 1.76	0.56
FP Am Smlr Cos	182.60	195.20	- 1.00	...
FP Asian Growth	306.00	327.20	+ 6.50	..
FP Australian	398.40	427.40†	+ 13.10	.
FP Equity Dist	429.70	457.10	+ 3.30	2.43
-do- Accum	931.90	991.30	+ 7.20	2.43
FP Euro Gth	255.50	271.80	+ 0.40	0.06
-do- Accum	277.70	295.40	+ 0.50	0.06
FP Intl Bond	61.12	64.68†	- 1.82	4.78
FP Intl Gth Dist	37.81	40.35	+ 0.60	0.38
-do- Accum	55.71	58.92	+ 0.88	0.38
FP Pac Basin Acc	233.10	249.10	+ 4.60	.
FP Income #	57.14	60.94	+ 0.05	4.95
-do- Accum #	193.20	206.00	+ 0.20	4.95
FP Jap Smlr Cos	315.90	336.90	+ 4.30	.
FP Monthly Dist #	74.33	79.32†	- 0.35	5.13
FP Stlg Deposit	100.40	100.40†		5.75
FP Tokyo	85.81	91.53	+ 1.02	
FP UK Focus	40.17	43.19	+ 0.01	2.52
FP UK Growth	189.10	201.70†	+ 1.20	2.59
-do- Accum	375.30	400.30	+ 2.30	2.59
Stewardship Dist	386.40	411.00	+ 2.50	1.81
-do- Accum	480.90	511.50	+ 3.00	1.81
Stardship Inc Dist #	77.28	82.21†	- 0.41	4.82
-do- Accum #	103.70	110.30†	+ 0.30	4.82
N Am Stshp Dist	119.30	126.90	+ 1.80	0.83
-do- Accum	127.90	136.00	+ 1.90	0.83
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	123.00	130.80	+ 0.60	1.06
Open Cap Gth Acc	127.70	135.80	+ 1.58	0.04
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	116.00	123.40†	- 1.00	2.39
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	121.30	129.00	+ 0.30	2.39
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ie #	118.60	126.10†	- 1.50	3.32
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	124.80	132.70	+ 0.20	3.32
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	272.10	287.70	+ 2.30	2.14
Cash	49.28	50.02†	- 0.50	5.32
Growth Portfolio	87.41	92.66	+ 1.13	0.88
Income Portfolio	70.56	74.82†	+ 0.54	4.12
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	227.90	243.70	+ 3.00	1.10
Dividend	94.10	100.60†	- 0.60	5.27
Int Gth & Inc	241.90	258.70†	+ 1.30	3.03
UK & Gen	49.20	52.62	+ 0.04	1.94
Fund of Funds	73.19	78.28	+ 0.76	..
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
Amer Spec Sits	235.40	251.80	- 2.10	.
European	619.60	661.60	+ 9.49	0.29
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	52.72	56.35	+ 0.22	4.82
-do- Accum	57.38	61.33	+ 0.23	4.82
Far East & Gen	292.10	312.40	+ 4.00	
Germany	127.50	135.38	- 1.80	
High Yield #	49.41	52.33†	- 1.32	8.10
-do- Accum #	52.72	55.72	- 0.51	8.10
Income Inc	177.50	189.90	+ 1.90	4.13
-do- Accum	195.80	209.50	+ 2.10	4.13
International	373.00	398.30	+ 6.70	.
Intl Income	93.80	99.31	+ 0.08	2.98
Japan & General	450.50	479.50	+ 1.90	.
Korean Securities	64.98	69.50	+ 0.80	
Orient Acc	168.90	180.70	+ 3.00	0.19
Smllr Cos Div Inc	46.06	49.27†	+ 0.49	4.31
-do- Accum	51.87	55.48	+ 0.53	4.31
UK Capital Inc	185.00	197.90†	+ 0.40	1.38
UK Capital Acc	327.50	350.30	+ 2.20	1.38
UK Spec Sits	96.86	103.60	+ 1.30	1.25
US Growth	184.80	195.70	+ 4.00	
Wwide Spec Sits	157.80	168.30	+ 0.40	...
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	57.23	61.11†	+ 0.25	1.82
Cash Trust	142.26	142.26	+ 0.12	5.74
Practical Inv Inc #	124.26	132.90	+ 1.56	2.54
-do- Accum #	291.63	311.90	+ 3.68	2.54
UK Index	172.33	173.20	+ 1.97	3.17
UK Smaller Cos	155.82	166.44	+ 4.83	0.70
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24.48	25.37†	- 0.08	7.57
High Income	34.09	36.45†	- 0.60	5.16
UK Equity Income	150.77	161.25†	- 2.80	3.04
Global Bond	31.11	32.24	- 0.22	4.99
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	49.52	52.96	+ 2.54	...
Global Managed	150.22	159.75	+ 2.17	1.51
Gold & Intl Res	130.53	139.60	+ 8.08	0.81
Global Utilities	147.83	157.85†	+ 2.83	1.64
Overseas Funds				
American	185.72	197.53	+ 4.52	0.88
European	124.47	131.85	+ 1.60	0.90
Euro Sel Opps	184.97	196.21†	+ 2.78	.
Amer Emerging	142.31	152.20	+ 3.34	
Hong Kong	173.70	185.59	+ 4.82	1.24
Japan	257.41	273.31	+ 1.75	
Pacific Growth	243.79	260.74	+ 6.37	.
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	245.06	245.06†	+ 2.48	2.06
Long Term Bal	267.00	267.00†	+ 1.77	3.02
Med Term Bal	222.05	222.05†	+ 0.60	3.09
UK Equity	278.18	278.18	+ 2.73	2.52
UK Emerging Cos	161.60	161.69	+ 2.87	2.05
American	307.21	307.21	+ 6.27	1.12
Japan	139.47	139.47	+ 0.39	..
European	320.84	320.84	+ 3.59	1.01
Index Linked Gilt	180.80	180.80	- 0.74	2.70
Fixed Interest	172.06	172.06†	- 1.20	6.36
Amer Emerging	328.37	328.37	- 1.26	
Pacific	268.16	268.16	+ 4.91	0.74
Emerging Mkts	131.36	131.36†	- 0.37	0.67
Index Stkt Japan	159.04	159.04†	+ 1.25	0.18
-do- Pacific Rim	218.21	218.21†	+ 4.84	1.27
-do- Cont Europe	179.53	179.53†	+ 2.59	1.88
Index Stkt USA	181.48	181.48†	+ 4.59	1.72
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	115.30	122.65	+ 1.24	.
Med Term Bal	105.55	112.28	+ 0.31	.
Long Term Bal	119.83	127.47	+ 0.84	...
UK Equity	128.79	136.91	+ 1.34	.
UK Emerging Cos	75.72	80.54	+ 1.17	.
American	143.29	152.43	+ 4.05	...
Japan	66.20	70.43	- 0.32	
European	132.99	141.48	+ 1.59	...
Fixed Interest	87.74	93.34	- 0.65	
Index Linked Gilt	80.36	85.48	- 0.13	
Deposit	84.65	90.05	+ 0.08	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	158.30	166.03	+ 1.20	0.51
Brettl Gth Port Inc	71.71	75.68	+ 0.59	0.60
-do- Inc Port Inc	61.30	64.70†	- 0.09	3.50
-do- Wwide Port	61.49	64.90	+ 1.95	0.10
Shaw Utilities	66.43	70.16	+ 2.57	3.15
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stg & Intl Inc	610.55	649.52†	+ 8.81	1.59
-do- Accum	689.97	733.90	+ 9.96	1.56
European Inc	166.36	176.60†	- 0.35	0.98
Amalgam Inc	160.43	169.84†	+ 1.69	0.41
N America Inc	372.79	396.04†	+ 4.11	0.60
Far East Inc	406.07	431.99†	+ 21.37	
-do- Accum	420.73	447.58	+ 22.14	
UK Divid Inc	190.64	202.81	+ 0.41	2.77
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
UK Equity Inc #	100.67	107.66	+ 0.10	4.39
UK Small Cos	61.09	65.33	+ 0.09	0.61
British Growth	67.57	72.25	+ 0.61	2.57
American Gwth	255.14	272.87†	+ 6.01	.
Japan Gwth	69.14	73.93†	+ 0.57	
Greater China	200.87	214.92	+ 2.88	0.56
Pacific Strategy	173.08	185.08†	+ 2.55	0.52
European Gwth	99.64	106.49	+ 0.62	0.69
Intl Growth	165.86	177.38	+ 3.64	
US Index (£)	17.7849	18.7390	+ 0.43	4.60
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	85.65	91.59	+ 0.22	2.25
Monthly Income	40.97	43.67†	- 0.27	8.00
MIS Unit Trust Dealing: 071 665 0033				
Gtd UK Index (£)	14.0817	14.8660	+ 0.20	5.50
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	100.41	106.82†	+ 1.89	1.46
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 938 9668				
European	551.90	589.60	+ 3.50	0.42
Gilt & Fixed	132.90	141.00	- 1.40	5.84
Growth Equity	398.30	425.50	- 0.80	1.38
Income Trust	146.20	156.10	+ 0.40	3.45
International	211.60	226.00	+ 2.70	0.08
Japan Trust	134.80	144.00		.
Nth American	345.70	369.30	+ 8.40	.
Pacific	632.00	675.70	+ 14.50	0.10
Guardhill	604.00	645.20	+ 6.10	1.44
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	109.70	117.86	+ 0.02	5.87
Global High Inc	104.57	108.96†	- 1.64	5.66
Corporate Bond	105.50	109.52	- 0.03	6.23
Eqty & Bond Inc	109.81	116.75†	+ 0.00	5.08
European Group	118.91	126.43	+ 1.59	...
Intl PEP Trust	70.64	75.10	+ 0.83	.
Equity Inc	133.44	141.98†	+ 1.35	4.13
-do- Accum	191.56	203.68	+ 3.72	4.13
Recovery	351.60	373.80	+ 4.80	2.26
-do- Accum	412.98	439.29	+ 5.68	2.26
St Vinc High Inc	120.24	130.16	+ 0.15	7.62
UK Emerg Cos	278.10	295.70	+ 1.70	1.91
UK Smlr Cos	371.50	378.19†	+ 1.50	2.40
Glob Ptw Tst	110.60	117.60	+ 2.94	1.09
-do- Accum	112.67	119.80	+ 2.60	1.09
Inc Share Tst	89.65	95.32	+ 0.03	8.21
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050 01904 611110				
Growth	30.61	32.46†	+ 0.19	1.97
Growth Acc	31.27	33.15	+ 0.47	1.97
Income	30.18	32.00	+ 0.38	4.11
Income Acc	31.23	33.11	+ 0.40	4.11
Accumulation Tst ‡				.
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 380				
High Provider	99.73	103.20†	- 2.20	7.42
Mgdal Ptolio	233.20	245.30	+ 2.40	2.32
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT				
Enquiries: 01277 263 290 Dealing: 01277 234 772				
UK Funds				
Special Sits	349.64	374.11	- 1.19	1.20
Best of British	70.35	74.78	+ 0.74	2.33
UK Smaller Cos	140.34	150.85†	+ 0.17	1.26
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	300.63	320.15	+ 2.43	3.57
-do- Accum #	832.78	886.87	+ 6.74	3.57
High Income	336.95	358.76†	+ 3.20	4.61
Extra Income #	294.72	313.43	+ 1.08	5.62
Pref & Bond	46.09	49.70†	+ 0.11	8.38
International				
International	317.55	338.18	+ 5.05	..
Global Bond	58.65	61.73	- 0.31	5.96
Intl Port Tst	95.95	102.61	+ 0.76	0.50
Global Tech	243.73	260.18	+ 4.31	...
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	202.16	216.18†	+ 4.26	0.48
European	567.89	601.73	+ 7.80	0.45
European Income #	89.72	94.97†	- 0.35	2.91

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	163.93	175.73	+ 3.19	0.95
European Value	81.05	86.24	+ 2.21	0.69
-do- Accum	88.82	92.38	+ 2.36	0.69
Japan Trust	239.41	255.08†	+ 2.15	..
Japan Special Sits	242.83	259.02	+ 8.19	...
Pacific Smlr Cos	254.57	272.38	+ 6.29	..
North American	303.05	321.71†	+ 9.89	..
American Smaller	156.65	167.67	+ 5.44	.
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth	156.80	165.10†	- 1.00	4.04
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4356				
British	114.25	119.63	+ 1.50	1.77
Capital	200.04	209.47†	+ 2.63	1.12
Dollar	467.26	489.27	+ 13.48	...
Enterprise Gth	378.53	396.36	+ 2.36	1.32
European	267.41	280.01	+ 4.68	0.22
Far East	355.15	371.89	+ 7.75	.
Financial	980.41	1010.26	- 4.89	1.73
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.29	27.34†	- 0.16	6.40
High Yield	109.93	115.11	+ 0.77	3.62
Income & Growth	158.88	166.35	+ 1.17	3.06
International	299.07	313.16†	+ 5.74	..
Japanese General	227.50	238.22	+ 0.86	..
Japan Tech	97.45	102.04	+ 0.15	..
Nat Resources	91.65	95.97	+ 3.82	...
Portfolio	83.65	86.96	+ 0.89	1.33
Special Sits	183.70	192.36	- 4.04	0.53
UK Emerging Cos	109.44	114.59†	+ 0.62	0.85
US Smaller Cos	129.56	135.66	+ 2.19	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
UK Funds				
Balanced #	111.60	119.10†	+ 0.70	6.31
Capital	687.60	733.80	+ 11.10	2.01
Income #	611.70	652.80†	+ 5.10	6.49
Footsie Fund	62.27	62.56	+ 0.72	3.03
Trade Index	118.60	121.60	+ 0.70	2.31
UK Index	158.30	160.10†	+ 1.90	3.45
International Funds				
American Growth	603.40	641.60	+ 14.40	0.43
American Index	269.50	270.90†	+ 4.50	1.25
European Growth	133.60	142.39†	+ 2.30	0.15
Eurotrack 100	188.20	189.10†	+ 1.90	1.92
Global Bond	23.30	24.61†	- 0.08	5.81
Japan Growth	299.50	319.40	+ 0.90	
Japan Index	84.35	84.77†	+ 9.08	0.19
Japan Smllr Cos	34.49	36.81†	+ 0.07	.
Far Eastern Funds				
Asian	70.35	74.98†	+ 1.70	0.15
Hong Kong Gwth	137.70	147.00	+ 3.80	1.89
Spore & Mlysn Gth	89.49	95.51	+ 1.20	.
Tiger Index	224.60	225.70	+ 2.30	0.42
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	43.12	44.82†	- 0.72	0.57
General Funds				
Managed Dist	83.62	86.52	+ 0.81	1.28
Managed	85.40	88.77	+ 0.82	1.28
Rupert Child Fnd	97.55	101.40	+ 1.60	2.08
UK Growth	68.11	70.80	+ 0.47	2.03
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	85.86	89.25†	+ 0.39	6.62
Gilt & Fixed Int	27.27	28.14†	- 0.24	7.80
UK Inc & Gwth	45.75	47.56	+ 0.72	3.23
UK Income	359.00	373.20	+ 2.60	4.83
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	61.17	63.44	+ 1.47	0.25
Amer Smllr Cos	143.90	149.60	+ 3.80	...
-do- Accum	145.40	151.10	+ 3.78	..
Europe Gth	195.60	202.90	+ 2.70	.
-do- Accum	202.50	210.10	+ 2.70	.
Euro Smaller Cos	37.35	38.83	+ 0.16	.
French Growth	89.13	92.60†	+ 1.14	0.33
-do- Accum	96.38	100.10†	+ 1.98	0.33
H Kong & China	100.00	104.00†	+ 2.50	1.12
Intl Growth	66.86	69.50	+ 0.77	0.30
-do- Accum	67.79	70.47	+ 0.78	0.30
Japan Gth	34.40	35.76	+ 0.41	..
-do- Accum	34.47	35.76	+ 0.41	..
Japan Smaller Cos	39.95	41.53	- 0.69	.
Glob Emg Mkts	103.00	107.10	+ 2.80	.
-do- Accum	103.80	107.90	+ 2.90	..
SE Asia	382.40	397.50	+ 8.60	0.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	57.16	58.90	- 0.27	5.87
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	101.70	107.20	+ 0.60	3.97
Sector Value Gwth	102.80	107.60	+ 0.70	2.23
Hy 5 Europe	98.96	103.70	+ 1.70	2.41
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	222.50	238.70	+ 9.00	
Income #	193.67	206.03†	+ 0.60	4.15
UK Growth	76.01	80.86†	+ 0.22	0.43
International	85.65	91.11†	+ 1.04	0.07
Ecology	97.19	103.39	+ 1.54	1.04
European	153.84	163.59	+ 1.88	..
Far Eastern	324.20	344.80	+ 4.50	.

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COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY

Head Office: Coventry Building Society, Economic House, P.O. Box 9, High Street, Coventry, CV1 5QN Telephone: Customer Services Coventry (01203) 839333

Security is required for any mortgage. Mortgages, which must be first charges, are only available to people aged 18 or over subject to status. Written quotations and details of application and arrangement fees are available on request.

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Coventry Building Society is an Appointed Representative of Commercial Union Marketing Group (which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority) for Life Assurance and Pensions, Unit Trusts, UCITS and PEPs.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.20	104.60	- 0.90	7.35
Gilt Yield	120.00	126.50	- 0.80	6.72
Global Income	232.90	247.80†	- 0.10	3.50
High Yield	149.80	158.40†	+ 2.30	5.82
-do- Accum	476.60	507.00†	+ 6.80	5.62
Smllr Cos Div	57.24	60.89†	- 0.57	3.41
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	138.50	147.30	+ 4.60	.
Asian Growth	374.00	397.90	+ 12.90	0.21
-do- Accum	439.50	467.50	+ 15.10	0.21
North American	102.70	109.30	+ 2.40	0.24
European Special	122.50	130.30	+ 3.30	0.18
European	172.00	183.00	+ 4.60	0.44
-do- Accum	226.80	241.30	+ 6.10	0.44
Global Eqty Inc	119.40	126.70†	+ 1.50	1.61
Japan	439.20	467.20		.
Japanese Special	236.40	251.50	- 7.20	.
Smaller Cos	130.70	139.02	+ 0.60	1.10
UK Equity Growth	47.56	50.60†	+ 0.29	2.08
UK Index Inc	322.61	324.00	+ 5.10	3.38
Bestinvest Tst	105.42	113.90	..	2.63
-do- Accum	105.40	113.90	..	2.63
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	299.59	308.87	+ 2.34	5.02
Inc & Growth Inc	60.77	64.65†	+ 0.92	4.22
Smaller Cos	75.12	79.92	+ 0.17	1.26
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 01452 371 500 Dlg: 01452 371 523				
Growth Trust	280.20	298.00	+ 3.90	1.80
High Income	113.40	120.60†	+ 1.10	4.31
International	117.80	125.30	+ 2.40	0.48
European Trust	86.47	91.98	+ 2.78	0.83
Japanese Trust	44.61	47.45	- 0.01	.
American Trust	112.30	119.40	+ 2.50	..
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	422.10	447.90†	+ 0.80	2.29
UK Inc/Gth	447.90	475.20†	- 3.50	2.94
UK Income	314.70	333.90†	- 0.80	3.59
UK Sm Cos	265.30	282.50†	+ 0.20	1.75
Euro Gwth	151.40	160.40	+ 0.60	...
N Amer Gwth	119.80	127.10	+ 3.80	0.19
Japan Growth	69.57	73.92	+ 0.95	.
Money Mkt	129.427	129.427	.	0.000
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 385				
Equity Dist	553.10	588.40	+ 6.20	2.56
-do- Accum	£11.16	£11.87	+ 12.00	2.56
Equity Income #	104.20	110.90†	+ 0.40	4.44
UK Tactical Alloctn	64.44	68.43†	+ 0.80	4.10
European	137.10	145.90†	+ 7.20	1.58
Far Eastern	245.62	261.30	+ 6.30	
Fixed Interest	54.07	57.52†	- 0.43	7.06
Gilt	92.05	97.61	- 0.58	5.99
Global Growth	84.19	89.47	+ 1.51	0.65
Intl Bond	57.21	60.71	- 0.16	4.89
Japanese	76.67	81.56	+ 0.61	.
North American	198.40	211.10†	+ 4.30	0.60
Pacific Growth	126.90	135.00	+ 3.60	0.30
UK Index	72.95	76.59	+ 0.89	2.96
UK Recovery	107.00	113.80	+ 0.85	1.97
UK Smaller Cos	144.26	153.40†	+ 1.00	1.34
US Index	86.34	91.79†	+ 2.23	1.30
European Index	88.15	93.03†	+ 1.29	2.10
Japan Index	43.40	45.81	+ 0.13	
Worldwide	95.32	101.40	+ 1.20	1.45
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
0181 902 6876 Dealing: 0800 262 621				
Growth	53.95	57.60†	+ 0.65	2.13
Income	62.46	66.73†	+ 0.62	3.82
Far East	60.47	64.60	+ 1.12	
North American	132.20	141.80	+ 4.50	
Global	113.00	120.80	+ 2.20	0.18
European	96.56	103.10	+ 1.60	0.63
Japan	110.80	118.40	+ 1.20	
Intl Currency Bd	63.45	67.24	- 0.20	4.16
SE Asia	121.40	129.80	+ 3.40	
UK Cap Growth	99.53	106.50	+ 1.30	1.65
Recovery Trust	79.06	84.10	+ 0.36	1.32
Managed	75.67	80.49	+ 0.93	0.61
Cash	56.87	58.07†	+ 0.03	4.92
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	386.10	411.52	+ 2.80	2.58
-do- Accum	901.20	958.80	+ 6.60	2.58
Contl Euro Gth	75.64	79.63	+ 1.86	0.78
-do- Accum	81.40	85.69	+ 1.99	0.78
Extra Inc	223.40	237.60	+ 4.80	4.04
-do- Accum	751.50	799.50	+ 13.10	4.04
FTSE 100 Inc	115.90	122.40	+ 0.80	2.92
FTSE 100 Acc	118.00	125.63	+ 0.80	2.92
German Gth	141.66	149.10		.
-do- Accum	148.50	156.40		
Growth Port	624.60	664.50	- 2.90	0.09
-do- Accum	643.20	684.30	- 2.90	0.09
High Interest Inc	98.95	102.50†	- 0.90	7.67
High Interest Acc	99.97	103.60	- 0.99	7.67
Hi Reserve Inc #	107.90	114.80	- 0.10	6.54
Hi Reserve Acc #	112.20	113.40	- 0.10	6.54
Income	538.45	572.80	- 1.70	3.41
-do- Accum	£14.93	£15.89	+ 5.00	3.41
Income Port	550.70	585.90†	+ 8.10	4.44
-do- Accum	604.20	642.90	+ 8.90	4.44
Japan Growth	114.30	121.60	+ 0.70	.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	114.70	122.18	+ 0.80	...
Mxtra Trust	66.37	70.59	+ 0.59	1.13
-do- Accum	75.28	80.09	+ 0.67	1.13
N American Gth	239.40	254.70	+ 6.00	0.68
-do- Accum	276.80	294.50	+ 7.00	0.68
NAm Sta Co Acc	183.80	195.80	+ 2.80	.
-do- Accum	187.50	199.50	+ 2.70	...
Pacific Basin	303.50	322.90†	+ 13.30	0.01
-do- Accum	323.20	343.90	+ 14.90	0.01
Small Cos Rec	453.80	477.70	+ 2.90	1.68
-do- Accum	618.00	650.60	+ 3.90	1.68
UK Eq Gth	153.80	163.70	+ 1.30	2.61
UK Eq Inc	124.90	132.90	+ 0.40	4.04
UK Growth	98.23	104.50†	+ 2.10	1.87
-do- Accum	122.00	129.80	+ 2.60	1.87
Worldwide Gth	367.00	390.50	+ 7.00	.
-do- Accum	542.40	577.10	+ 10.50	
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	85.62	91.63	+ 2.37	0.40
General	101.14	108.51	+ 0.72	2.40
Income	70.64	75.79	+ 0.47	5.30
International	75.57	81.08	+ 1.22	0.49
Japan	62.73	67.30	+ 0.59	...
Tst of Inv Trusts	75.40	80.90	+ 0.78	1.40
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svce/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	507.30	536.50†	+ 8.10	0.33
-do- Accum	634.00	670.50†	+ 10.90	0.33
Amer Recovery	559.00	597.10	+ 13.50	0.49
-do- Accum	644.10	681.10	+ 15.60	0.49
Amer Smllr Cos	154.20	163.10†	+ 1.10	...
-do- Accum	157.50	166.60†	+ 1.10	...
Australasian	189.30	200.20	+ 6.00	2.25
-do- Accum	233.80	247.10	+ 7.50	2.25
Capital	934.70	988.40	+ 16.80	2.87
-do- Accum	1084.10	1146.30	+ 19.40	2.87
Charifund	740.50	749.08†	...	5.78
-do- Accum	3672.60	3769.40†	+ 32.50	5.78
Commodity	483.70	511.50	+ 12.00	0.36
-do- Accum	712.40	753.40	+ 17.70	0.36
Compound Gth	1054.60	1115.20	+ 7.00	2.84
-do- Accum	1134.70	1199.80	+ 7.50	2.84
Corporate Bond	25.42	25.51†	- 0.17	7.30
Dividend	44.59	47.10	+ 0.50	4.25
-do- Accum	194.00	205.20	+ 1.90	4.25
Equity Income	352.80	373.10	+ 4.20	4.95
-do- Accum	468.20	495.10	+ 5.60	4.95
Euro & General	584.20	617.80†	+ 11.70	1.17
-do- Accum	745.60	787.90†	+ 14.90	1.17
Euro Dividend	80.40	85.00†	+ 0.90	3.81
-do- Accum	99.90	105.60†	+ 1.10	3.81
Extra Yield	452.10	478.10	+ 3.40	4.97
-do- Accum	1464.20	1548.70	+ 11.10	4.97
Far Eastern	397.50	420.40	+ 4.30	0.36
-do- Accum	530.20	560.70	+ 5.80	0.36
Fund of Inv Tsts	692.10	731.90	+ 5.10	1.78
-do- Accum	1314.90	1390.50	+ 9.70	1.78
General	66.90	70.70†	+ 1.00	3.81
-do- Accum	184.40	205.60†	+ 2.80	3.81
Gilt Income	62.41	62.49	- 0.46	6.80
-do- Accum	181.12	181.37	- 1.37	6.80
Gold	90.20	95.40†	+ 5.40	0.40
-do- Accum	107.10	113.30†	+ 6.40	0.40
High Income	32.10	33.90	+ 0.30	4.70
-do- Accum	134.00	141.60	+ 1.30	4.70
Intl Growth	91.00	96.20†	+ 1.40	0.65
-do- Accum	160.20	169.40†	+ 2.80	0.65
International Inc	113.50	120.00	+ 1.30	4.38
-do- Accum	175.50	185.50	+ 2.00	4.38
Japan & Gen	43.30	45.70	- 0.20	...
-do- Accum	46.50	49.10	- 0.10	...
Japan Smlr Cos	150.70	159.40	- 2.50	...
-do- Accum	151.73	160.50	- 2.60	...
Managed Gwth	26.30	27.70†	+ 0.20	..
Managed Income	29.80	31.30†	+ 0.20	4.17
Midland	59.80	63.20	+ 0.50	3.65
-do- Accum	205.10	217.10	+ 1.90	3.65
Pension Ex	1009.60	1065.00	+ 8.60	4.25
Recovery	46.10	48.70†	+ 0.50	2.66
-do- Accum	77.50	82.00†	+ 1.00	2.66
Second General	73.60	77.80†	- 0.10	3.61
-do- Accum	196.90	208.40†	- 0.30	3.61
Smaller Cos	71.90	76.00	+ 0.50	3.09
-do- Accum	145.00	153.30	+ 1.20	3.09
Treasury	25.10	25.14†	+ 0.02	6.28
Trustee	43.00	45.50	+ 0.20	4.70
-do- Accum	179.80	190.40	+ 0.90	4.70
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 610 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	93.04	98.97	+ 0.14	1.34
Intl Bond	68.57	72.06	- 0.58	5.57
Intl Equity Growth	84.77	90.08	+ 1.32	0.62
N Amer Growth	130.49	138.84	+ 3.58	0.79
Special Sits Growth	24.85	28.54	+ 0.11	2.07
UK Growth	428.09	455.41	+ 7.00	2.61
-do- Accum	573.78	610.40	+ 1.35	2.81
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01820 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1472.60	1495.20	+ 10.10	2.98
Income #	1037.20	1048.60	- 9.50	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	158.70	163.00	...	3.71
For Manulife see Canada Life				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 866				
M & S Inc Ptflo	172.28	181.30†	+ 2.10	2.09
-do- Accum	202.10	212.80†	+ 2.50	2.09
UK Sel Ptflo	150.40	158.20	+ 2.30	2.48
-do- Accum	178.70	188.10	+ 2.70	2.48
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01284 784 842				
Managed Tst	76.32	81.19	- 0.32	3.50
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4846				
Intl Income	82.45	87.53	- 0.14	3.74
European	97.62	103.80†	+ 0.60	0.79
Income #	81.40	86.41†	- 1.06	4.79
Nth American	88.26	93.72	+ 3.57	0.39
Far East	187.80	198.50	+ 1.50	0.84
Japan	63.58	67.49	+ 0.89	
Emrging Mkts	92.54	98.97†	+ 1.39	
Intl Growth	130.00	138.00	+ 1.90	0.48
UK Growth	112.80	119.70	+ 0.20	2.56
UK Smlr Co	54.33	57.67	- 0.15	1.58
Asian Opps Fd	42.40	45.35	+ 0.60	0.30
Glob Gwth PEP	59.33	62.96	+ 0.51	0.74
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	102.90	109.50	+ 1.70	...
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	466.39	495.10	+ 4.69	3.59
Global Inc	76.49	81.37	+ 0.86	3.43
Brit Leaders	397.37	422.73	+ 2.82	1.66
Intl Leaders	226.77	241.24	+ 5.72	1.29
PAM Mg Bal Gth	71.98	74.78	+ 0.73	0.70
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0171 280 2060				
American	255.40	269.40	+ 5.10	.
-do- Accum	273.10	288.10	+ 5.40	.
American Opps	113.10	120.60	+ 1.50	
-do- Accum	114.50	122.10	+ 1.50	.
British Blue Chip	92.88	97.78	+ 0.73	2.46
-do- Accum	116.50	123.60	+ 0.90	2.46
Cash	100.20	100.20†	...	6.12
-do- Accum	144.80	144.80†	+ 0.18	6.12
Emerging Mkts	122.80	132.00	+ 3.10	0.11
-do- Accum	123.60	132.90	+ 3.20	0.11
European Growth	284.10	301.80	+ 4.30	0.15
-do- Accum	308.30	327.40	+ 4.50	0.15
European Income	92.32	97.67†	+ 0.58	2.94
-do- Accum	129.50	137.00†	+ 0.80	2.94
General	576.40	613.39	+ 6.70	2.82
-do- Accum	1150.60	1223.00	+ 14.00	2.82
Global Bond	137.10	144.00	- 1.00	5.12
-do- Accum	172.80	181.50	- 1.20	5.12
Gold & General	266.60	298.20	+ 11.50	0.31
-do- Accum	275.20	295.60	+ 12.00	0.31
Govt Securities	94.38	97.31	- 0.61	6.03
-do- Accum	192.50	198.80	- 1.50	6.03
High Yield Bd	102.30	104.80	- 0.70	6.98
-do- Accum	103.60	106.20	- 0.70	6.98
Income	173.90	184.90†	- 1.40	4.19
-do- Accum	284.70	302.80†	+ 2.70	4.19
Inc Portfolio #	107.80	114.30†	+ 0.30	4.83
-do- Accum #	114.00	120.00†	+ 0.30	4.83
Intl Opps	531.10	566.60	+ 5.10	0.16
-do- Accum	717.40	765.20	+ 6.80	0.16
Japan	181.90	192.60†	+ 0.10	..
-do- Accum	186.70	197.70†		..
New Europe	206.70	220.50†	- 0.30	0.91
-do- Accum	215.40	229.80†	+ 2.20	0.91
Pacific	130.50	139.20	+ 3.30	0.73
-do- Accum	140.20	149.50	+ 3.60	0.73
Recovery	374.80	399.80	+ 2.90	0.65
-do- Accum	486.00	518.40	+ 3.80	0.65
UK Smaller Cos	61.03	65.10	+ 0.13	0.79
-do- Accum	69.66	74.33	+ 0.15	0.79
Portfolio	92.39	98.05	+ 0.53	2.35
-do- Accum	111.30	118.10	+ 0.70	2.35
Managed Gth	114.03	119.30	+ 1.18	1.08
Managed Inc	115.80	120.70	+ 0.50	3.01
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	134.50	143.08	+ 1.94	0.17
Portfolio	77.15	82.07†	+ 0.74	1.46
UK Income Inc	87.18	92.74	+ 0.99	4.69
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	67.06	70.22	+ 0.53	2.59
-do- Accum	72.68	76.10	+ 0.58	2.59
British Tst	180.30	196.10	+ 1.40	1.93
-do- Accum	118.90	124.50	+ 1.70	1.93
Extra High Inc	70.26	73.57†	- 0.26	6.62
-do- Accum	144.80	150.70†	- 0.60	6.62
FT-SE 100 Acc	64.78	67.83†	+ 0.77	2.85
FT-SE 100 Dist	62.07	64.99†	+ 0.74	2.85
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.66	58.96	- 0.28	6.62
-do- Accum	172.80	179.80	- 0.80	6.62
High Yield	233.50	244.50		6.13
-do- Accum	616.80	645.69		6.13
Income	309.50	324.10†	- 3.02	4.38
-do- Accum	708.20	741.60†	+ 5.90	4.38
Money Market UT	49.21	49.21†	- 0.45	5.45
-do- Accum	80.73	80.73†	+ 0.11	5.45
Monthly Income	91.83	96.15†	+ 0.22	4.98
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	123.30	131.20	+ 1.70	1.59
European Growth	124.70	132.70	+ 2.20	0.04
Gilt & Fixed	95.80	101.40	- 0.50	5.47
Income	96.54	102.70	+ 0.80	2.49

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	54.29	57.55	+ 0.96	...
Managed	79.51	84.59	+ 0.65	2.08
Money Market	86.82	87.12	+ 0.15	4.14
North American	110.80	117.40	+ 2.40	0.38
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	111.80	119.00	+ 1.60	1.40
European Growth	117.20	124.20	+ 2.00	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	90.54	96.06	- 0.44	5.47
Income	94.66	100.70	+ 0.80	2.55
Japan Growth	54.01	57.25	+ 0.88	...
Managed	75.99	80.84	+ 0.62	2.06
Money Market	84.55	89.62	+ 0.15	4.10
North American	100.10	108.10	+ 2.20	0.46
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	111.60	118.70	+ 1.60	1.48
European Growth	114.60	121.50	+ 2.00	
Gilt & Fixed Int	83.06	88.13	- 0.42	5.60
Income	92.92	98.86	+ 0.78	2.58
Japan Growth	55.22	58.53	+ 0.90	..
Managed	78.82	83.85	+ 0.64	2.07
Money Market	78.39	83.09	+ 0.11	4.19
North American	111.90	118.60	+ 2.40	0.35
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	14.52	15.38	- 0.22	.
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	461.70	489.90	+ 7.60	..
European Gth Inc	648.10	688.90	+ 35.80	...
-do- Accum	655.10	701.40	+ 36.00	..
Intl Gwth	234.50	249.20	+ 6.80	..
UK Equity Inc	212.80	225.30	+ 1.40	2.96
Do. Accum	288.50	298.10	+ 1.80	2.96
UK Intl Trdr Inc	180.00	195.50†	- 0.50	2.56
-do- Accum	223.20	238.50†	+ 2.70	2.56
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	267.80	284.00	+ 7.30	0.84
Japan Tracker	79.45	84.12	+ 0.26	.
Asian Tracker	245.30	264.00	+ 5.80	0.16
Managed Inc	181.60	194.10	+ 2.90	2.23
Deposit Inc	100.05	100.05†	+ 0.07	5.65
Europe	292.60	316.20†	+ 8.20	.
Emerging	188.50	204.30	+ 2.40	1.57
High Income	21.57	22.87†	+ 0.08	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
Akoman	105.70	109.20	+ 0.60	2.20
Acumen Inc	99.76	107.09	+ 0.50	2.20
Acumen Reserve	92.65	93.57†	- 0.57	8.03
-do- Inc	74.76	75.50†	- 0.41	8.03
American Growth	65.94	68.87†	+ 1.24	..
Cash Income	49.50	49.50†	- 0.71	6.68
Equity Income #	107.49	104.19	+ 0.30	4.85
European	78.46	79.80	+ 1.31	0.36
Smaller Cos	83.56	87.70	- 0.38	1.38
W'wide Eqty	78.12	78.02†	+ 1.10	0.12
Global Bond	47.17	47.71†	- 0.84	6.28
UK Growth	108.80	109.70	+ 0.80	1.84
Pacific Growth	128.80	133.70	+ 3.80	0.84
Japan Growth	108.40	110.58	+ 0.90	..
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 810				
Avon Equity	140.92	149.91†	+ 1.86	2.40
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
0161 237 5322				
UK Growth	85.80	91.06	+ 1.16	2.12
UK Income	121.54	129.30	+ 1.49	3.83
Higher Income	227.46	241.98†	+ 3.08	5.09
Smaller Cos	96.09	102.22	+ 0.74	1.75
International	109.81	116.82	+ 0.92	1.25
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	132.00	140.40	+ 3.80	0.30
European Dist	135.60	144.30	+ 0.80	0.20
Far East Dist	213.80	227.80†	+ 5.40	.
Global Care Dist	84.05	89.42	+ 0.68	0.67
Oseas Dist	1208.30	1285.40	+ 19.70	0.01
-do- Accum	1560.30	1659.40	+ 25.60	0.01
UK Dist	403.00	428.70	+ 2.70	2.55
-do- Accum	807.40	858.90	+ 5.60	2.55
UK Extra Inc Dist	87.78	93.38†	- 1.55	3.42
Wwide Dist	124.30	132.20	+ 1.90	0.30
Wwide Inc Dist	84.76	90.17	+ 0.97	1.79
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER UT MGRS				
Dlg: 01277 690 260 Admin Enq: 01277 690 398				
Europe Inc	73.65	77.10	+ 1.02	1.02
Fund of Funds Inc	67.29	71.12†	+ 0.78	1.95
North America Inc	65.40	70.08	+ 1.80	
UK Equity Gth Inc	65.44	70.12	+ 0.74	2.58
-do- Accum	70.56	74.47	+ 0.79	2.58
UK General Inc	65.54	69.17	+ 0.89	2.76
UK Gilt/Fx Int Inc	48.78	51.38†	- 0.28	6.38
UK Income Inc	63.35	66.86†	- 0.04	3.43
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0500 550 000 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	48.93	52.05	+ 2.15	..
-do- Accum	49.31	52.45	+ 2.16	...
Bond	129.66	137.58	- 1.34	5.87
Cash Income	50.49	50.49	+ 0.04	5.58
-do- Accum	67.11	67.11	+ 0.05	5.58
Distributor	102.36	108.93	+ 2.10	2.92
European	50.69	53.93	+ 0.84	..
Foundation	105.32	112.04	+ 1.13	3.57
General	213.10	226.80†	+ 2.90	1.10
Global	374.19	398.07	+ 11.89	0.35
Growth Inc	138.14	148.02	+ 1.58	2.46
Growth Acc	139.14	148.02	+ 1.56	2.46
Higher Income Inc	31.51	33.52	+ 0.17	5.76
-do- Accum	36.83	39.18	+ 0.19	5.16
Income	259.01	275.54†	+ 2.82	3.11
Intrepid	137.40	143.12		1.82
Japan	27.79	29.59	+ 0.35	..
Oriental Inc	174.82	185.98	+ 8.98	0.29
-do- Accum	180.39	191.90	+ 9.26	0.29
Pers Int Gwth	36.47	38.80	+ 0.89	..
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
Managed	110.80	117.20†	+ 0.99	2.45
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 224				
Master Trust	140.04	147.41	+ 1.33	1.12
UK Equity	158.65	168.98	+ 4.39	2.78
UK Equity Income	145.89	153.36	+ 0.83	3.17
UK Smaller Cos	128.59	135.38†	+ 0.59	1.54
UK Equity Growth	149.02	156.86	+ 1.12	2.12
UK Index Trckg	163.31	171.91	+ 2.25	3.32
Intl Index Trckg	173.38	182.50	+ 3.10	0.91
International	278.63	293.30	+ 4.31	0.56
European	235.17	247.55†	+ 2.31	0.15
Pan European	155.37	163.55	+ 1.49	1.25
Nth American	230.94	243.10	+ 5.43	0.73
N Amer Smlr Cos	236.32	248.76†	+ 3.40	..
Japanese	99.37	104.60	+ 0.67	..
Pacific	262.89	276.52	+ 5.41	0.36
South East Asian	303.40	319.37	+ 7.86	0.63
Intl Bond	142.41	149.91†	- 0.79	5.18
Gilt & Convertible	108.80	114.53†	- 0.81	5.91
Property	80.80	85.05	+ 0.03	6.21
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01258 768 868				
European Inc	276.80	297.00	+ 12.90	0.39
-do- Accum	292.10	314.20	+ 13.70	0.39
Japan Inc	116.30	124.10	+ 2.00	...
Nth American Inc	125.30	133.50	+ 4.10	0.33
Worldwide Inc	176.40	189.40	+ 2.40	0.38
Hong Kong Inc	180.00	193.20	+ 4.80	1.30
Swiss Equities Inc	83.60	89.22	+ 0.66	0.11
Wwide Bond Inc	68.89	72.86	- 0.21	4.83
Emrging Asia Inc	235.00	255.40	+ 5.20	..
-do- Accum	235.90	256.30	+ 5.20	
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.01	50.01†	- 0.51	6.48
Thailand Inc	195.90	213.80	+ 5.80	1.05
New Zealand Inc	100.50	108.60	+ 1.40	1.73
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	70.65	75.86	+ 0.65	1.33
Latin Am Cap Inc	65.86	71.20†	+ 1.32	0.29
UK All Sh Mkr Inc	68.10	72.98	+ 0.80	2.37
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Trustees	89.11	95.39	+ 1.71	...
Global Portfolio	79.95	85.51	+ 1.38	..
Global Opps	71.17	76.12	+ 1.29	..
Marsh Global Gth	69.78	74.00	+ 0.79	...
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	107.80	115.60	+ 1.90	..
Temple Equity Inc	46.11	50.16†	+ 0.27	2.23
Hartley Growth	100.30	106.70	+ 0.80	...
Intl Growth Inc	91.38	97.74	+ 0.82	1.81
JPS Portfolio Inc	92.82	99.27†	+ 1.43	...
Premier Portfos Inc	72.14	77.18†	- 0.09	1.68
Roxburgh Star Gth	79.62	85.16	+ 0.23	0.47
Slater Gwth	125.80	133.59	+ 1.80	.
International Strat	85.72	91.68	+ 1.37	..
UFC Ind-Act Gth	62.38	66.72	+ 0.65	.
Chartfield Port of Fds	54.88	58.40	+ 0.34	.
Chartfield Sec	124.90	134.40	+ 0.80	.
Lewes Intl Growth	55.23	59.14	+ 0.42	
PM UT MGRS LTD				
0171 588 3963				
Equity Gth	225.40	239.80	- 2.50	1.50
European Gth	121.70	129.89	+ 1.90	1.00
Income & Gth #	153.20	163.09	- 0.58	3.18
Japan Gth	120.90	128.60	+ 0.70	.
Nth Amer Gth	204.08	217.00	+ 2.80	0.09
Overseas Gth	121.70	129.50	+ 1.90	0.03
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	269.00	285.10†	+ 1.80	2.37
-do- Accum	581.20	618.30	+ 3.80	2.37
Growth	176.60	185.80	+ 1.50	2.65
Income	263.30	280.00	+ 1.30	3.45
Intl Equity	293.30	311.90	+ 4.40	0.58
-do- Accum	326.50	347.30	+ 4.90	0.58
UK Income	71.83	76.41	+ 0.24	3.03
UK Intl 25	90.84	96.63	+ 0.65	1.92
New Europe	93.26	99.21	+ 0.88	0.28
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	696.83	745.28	+ 5.21	0.45
-do- Accum	699.56	748.20	+ 5.22	0.45
Income	425.24	454.81	+ 2.21	2.96
Wwide Recovery	457.08	488.86	+ 5.74	0.58
Amer Growth Inc	291.86	311.91†	+ 7.72	0.01
-do- Accum	291.86	311.91	+ 7.72	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	286.24	306.14	+ 3.71	0.12
Far Estn Gth Inc	317.36	339.43	+ 3.80	0.73
-do- Accum	318.57	340.66	+ 3.80	0.73
Euro Gwth Inc	172.50	184.50	- 0.28	0.34
-do- Accum	173.10	185.14	- 0.29	0.34
UK Growth Inc	111.71	119.47	+ 0.43	2.41
-do- Accum	117.53	125.69	+ 0.46	2.41
High Income	110.98	118.70†	+ 0.52	3.63
Jap Gwth Inc	225.49	241.22	+ 1.91	0.01
-do- Accum	226.49	242.22	+ 1.91	0.01
PEP Growth	142.24	152.13	+ 1.21	0.71
Asian Sr Mkts Inc	149.54	160.02†	+ 2.98	0.22
-do- Accum	149.90	160.33	+ 2.97	0.22
Amer Smlr Co Inc	185.83	198.75	+ 6.30	0.01
-do- Accum	185.83	198.75	+ 6.30	0.01
Global Bond	59.59	62.74	- 0.16	6.38
UK Smaller Cos Inc	99.35	106.26	- 0.05	1.34
-do- Accum	104.53	111.80	- 0.05	1.34
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 201 3927				
American	127.47	135.61	+ 2.75	
European	88.01	91.50	+ 1.17	..
Global	70.84	75.36†	+ 1.25	..
Pacific	68.63	70.94	+ 1.79	
UK Inc & Gth	73.87	78.59	+ 0.05	2.12
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 430				
Fund of Funds	199.75	209.79	+ 2.21	0.59
Emerg Mkts	51.84	54.86†	+ 0.38	0.95
High Income #	54.38	57.55†	- 0.24	5.65
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	162.68	173.05†	+ 0.94	1.93
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 282 443				
American Income	117.00	124.50†	+ 1.40	2.97
Conv & Gilt	116.80	124.30	- 1.80	5.74
European Income	83.90	89.25	+ 1.69	3.15
Extra Income	172.30	183.30†		5.13
-do- Accum	218.20	232.10	- 0.10	5.13
Far East	441.80	470.00	+ 8.90	0.29
-do- Accum	451.00	479.80	+ 9.00	0.29
Global Income	28.82	30.71†	+ 0.38	4.99
High Income	130.00	138.30	+ 1.40	4.37
-do- Accum	160.78	170.90	+ 1.70	4.37
International	221.38	235.38	+ 4.50	0.55
-do- Accum	278.98	293.50	+ 4.70	0.55
Pref & Fxd Int	44.23	47.05†	- 0.13	7.18
Recovery	80.65	85.79	+ 0.87	2.40

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Special Sits	128.20	136.40	+ 1.10	1.44
-do- Accum	141.10	150.10	+ 1.20	1.44
Technology	670.60	712.70	+ 13.10	.
UK Blue Chip	80.89	86.05	+ 0.66	3.34
-do- Accum	92.32	98.21	+ 0.58	3.34
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4490				
Managed Tst	44.18	46.78	+ 0.55	1.59
Cash Haven Inc	101.90	102.30	+ 0.07	5.39
Cash Haven Acc	115.82	116.38	+ 0.09	5.30
Dist Trust Inc	104.70	108.49†	+ 0.62	6.40
Dist Trust Acc	113.89	118.02†	+ 0.42	6.40
Global Growth	104.10	110.74†	+ 1.42	1.17
Equity Inc	90.19	95.94	+ 0.69	4.27
Equity	843.44	897.27	+ 9.09	2.14
European	250.72	259.81	+ 3.41	0.80
High Income	93.30	99.25†	+ 0.27	4.55
Intl Gth	219.66	233.68†	+ 3.70	0.84
Intl Sm Co	93.91	99.90	+ 1.33	0.58
Japanese	232.29	240.71	+ 3.49	.
Nth Amer	231.73	240.13	+ 3.91	1.14
Pacific Mkts	128.14	132.78†	+ 3.20	0.26
Premier Inc	49.05	51.05†	- 0.23	6.52
Sm Cos	104.78	111.45	+ 0.73	1.40
Spec Sits	123.63	131.52†	+ 1.52	2.53
UK Growth	141.92	150.97	+ 1.70	2.05
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	333.90	354.10	+ 1.20	3.83
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000				
FA America (Inc)	646.38	687.97	+ 10.78	0.71
FA America (Acc)	755.94	803.53	+ 12.61	0.71
FA UK Equity Inc	175.65	187.60	+ 1.24	3.40
FA Japan	256.57	272.87	+ 0.29	.
FA Major UK Cos	108.88	116.08	+ 1.22	1.83
FA Smlr UK Cos	339.50	360.93	+ 0.25	1.14
FA European	381.66	405.14	+ 5.30	0.38
FA Amer Smlr Cos	57.55	61.67	+ 0.79	..
FA Asia	60.46	64.54	+ 1.45	..
FA Jap Smlr Cos	44.17	47.36	- 0.04	..
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	113.99	119.98	+ 1.29	..
UK Smlr Cos	99.55	104.78	+ 0.10	..
UK Income	112.55	118.47	+ 0.84	..
America	130.29	137.14	+ 2.19	..
Japanese	56.68	59.66	+ 0.09	.
European	123.02	129.49	+ 1.75	..
Gilt	97.78	102.91	- 0.37	..
Deposit	87.73	92.34	+ 0.08	..
Managed	111.63	117.50	- 0.84	.
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	110.85	116.68	+ 1.27	.
UK Smaller Cos	97.08	102.18	+ 0.10	...
UK Income	109.64	115.40	+ 0.80	..
America	126.63	133.29	+ 2.14	.
Japanese	55.69	57.98	+ 0.08	.
European	119.68	125.97	+ 1.69	...
Gilt	95.87	100.90	- 0.40	..
Deposit	83.86	88.27	+ 0.09	..
Managed	106.07	111.65	+ 0.44	..
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD				
Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	109.80	117.18	+ 1.50	0.26
Pacific Basin	85.98	92.50	+ 2.22	0.25
High Inc Dist	150.50	160.90	+ 0.30	4.24
Ryl Life Int Crcy	64.34	68.18	- 0.03	3.93
Ryl Life Intl Gwth	78.66	83.94	+ 1.38	0.12
Ryl Life Intl Spec	72.57	77.20	+ 1.41	..
UK Emerging Cos	141.40	152.80	- 0.40	1.01
UK Index Trckg	189.10	201.40	+ 0.40	1.56
European	154.80	169.30	+ 1.80	0.28
Managed	173.49	186.40†	+ 1.50	0.64
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	192.10	204.30†	+ 7.80	1.58
European Growth	130.30	138.20	+ 1.70	2.38
Far East Growth	161.20	171.50†	+ 3.20	1.77
Japan Growth	139.40	148.10	+ 2.10	.
Special Sits	235.20	250.20	- 4.10	1.19
UK Growth	92.35	98.34	+ 0.65	1.80
Triton General	288.70	307.20	+ 5.90	0.96
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	186.40	197.20	+ 3.30	0.14
Gr Euro Prog Inc	374.60	398.40	+ 9.70	0.36
-do- Accum	585.40	619.50	+ 15.10	0.36
Growth Inc	152.90	161.80	+ 6.40	0.28
-do- Accum	156.80	165.90	+ 6.50	0.28
International Inc	395.10	418.10	+ 15.60	0.14
-do- Accum	544.80	576.30	+ 21.40	0.14
Nth Am & Intl Inc	401.90	425.30	+ 3.90	0.17
UK Gen Prog Inc	240.30	254.30	+ 5.60	0.98
-do- Accum	275.30	291.30	+ 6.40	0.98
UK High Inc Inc	141.90	150.20	+ 0.70	3.77
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
American Gwth	77.44	82.39	+ 2.21	..
Asian Gwth	135.04	143.65	+ 2.78	0.75
European Gwth	83.34	88.65	+ 2.14	1.00
Global Bd	63.75	67.37	- 0.13	5.00
Global Eq	66.85	71.11	+ 1.87	0.50
Japan Sm Cos	58.72	62.47	+ 0.41	..
UK Gwth	81.86	87.08	+ 2.09	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
01708 766 966				
Amer Inc & Gwth #	90.92	96.72	+ 1.86	3.10
Amer Smlr Cos	143.00	152.10†	+ 2.80	..
Asian Smaller Cos	45.67	48.65	+ 1.17	..
Capital Portfolio	143.80	153.00	+ 1.40	1.69
Cash	131.50	131.50	+ 0.10	5.85
China Dragon	68.55	72.93	+ 2.13	1.36
Commodity	156.90	166.90	+ 7.80	
Eastern Discovery	116.40	123.80	+ 2.10	..
Emerging Mkts	40.05	42.61	+ 0.64	0.84
Energy Inds	144.10	153.30†	+ 1.69	0.25
European Gwth	216.60	230.40	+ 2.60	0.46
Euro Inc & Gwth #	88.65	94.31†	+ 0.50	1.80
Euro Smlr Cos	63.01	67.03	+ 0.39	0.08
Extra Income #	55.65	57.41†	- 0.67	6.17
Financial Secs	267.00	284.00	+ 2.50	0.90
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc #	50.35	53.18	- 0.31	7.98
Gold & Exploration	108.70	115.80†	+ 7.50	...
High Return #	249.00	264.90†	+ 1.10	3.82
High Yield #	255.20	271.50	+ 1.20	3.31
Income #	129.20	137.40†	- 2.10	3.88
Intl Bond	177.80	187.70	- 2.10	5.19
ITU	237.30	252.49	+ 2.10	0.75
Japan Growth	184.20	196.00	+ 1.60	.
Japan Smaller	184.60	196.40	+ 1.60	.
Korea	62.65	66.66	+ 0.79	...
Mainland	62.86	66.89	+ 0.62	0.89
Scotbits	399.10	424.60†	+ 3.30	0.87
Scotshares #	334.80	356.20	+ 2.30	1.80
Scotyields #	270.90	288.20	+ 1.40	3.43
Select Intl	155.00	164.90	+ 1.90	0.45
Smaller Cos Inc #	253.40	269.60	- 0.30	3.72
SE Asia	61.16	65.08	+ 2.32	0.18
Special Situation	149.00	158.50	+ 1.20	1.74
UK Equity #	279.60	297.40†	+ 1.80	2.40
UK Growth	75.91	80.75	+ 0.63	1.84
UK & O'seas	193.40	205.70	+ 1.90	1.16
UK Smlr Cos Gwth	54.73	58.22†	- 0.43	1.37
US Growth	201.50	214.40	+ 6.50	...
Univ Growth	159.10	169.30	+ 1.70	0.36
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Cist: 0800 526 535 Bdlc: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	328.34	349.17	+ 7.41	0.90
-do- Accum	361.22	383.04	+ 8.15	0.90
European Gwth	86.98	92.24	+ 1.37	0.77
Euro Smlr Cos	97.58	103.78	+ 1.35	0.23
Far Eastern Gth	113.65	120.58†	+ 2.34	...
-do- Accum	115.30	122.98†	+ 2.38	...
Gilt & Fixed Int #	53.43	56.32	- 0.26	7.28
Global Bond #	53.77	55.57†	- 0.22	7.15
-do- Accum #	62.22	64.31†	- 0.25	7.15
Global Emer Mkts	58.16	62.05	+ 1.01	..
-do- Accum	58.23	62.11	+ 1.01	..
Income #	402.87	428.51	+ 7.52	4.92
-do- Accum #	£13.09	£13.96	+ 24.45	4.92
Japan Smlr Cos	456.13	486.53†	+ 0.58	...
-do- Accum	457.04	487.40†	+ 0.58	...
Japan Enterprise	71.76	76.54	- 0.06	..
Pacific Gwth	165.37	176.39†	+ 3.57	0.23
-do- Accum	171.33	182.75†	+ 4.35	0.23
Portfolio	92.28	98.43†	+ 0.49	1.80
-do- Accum	101.78	108.55†	+ 1.47	1.80
Seoul	49.92	53.24	+ 2.08	..
-do- Accum	49.92	53.24	+ 2.08	..
Smaller Cos	265.03	282.69	+ 2.20	1.08
Strategic Inc	98.21	104.70	+ 1.15	1.00
Strategic Acc	98.21	104.70	+ 1.15	1.00
Tokyo	132.60	141.44	+ 0.12	..
-do- Accum	133.94	142.87	+ 0.12	..
UK Enterprise	313.83	334.75†	+ 4.57	1.93
-do- Accum	383.22	408.77†	+ 5.86	1.93
UK Equity	284.22	303.16†	+ 5.70	2.40
-do- Accum	565.05	602.72†	+ 11.40	2.40
US Smlr Cos	213.00	227.20	+ 3.68	...
-do- Accum	213.00	227.20	+ 3.68	...
Institutional Funds				
European	276.96	297.59†	+ 2.91	1.26
-do- Accum	341.28	323.22†	+ 3.77	1.26
Euro Smlr Cos	32.67	34.82	+ 0.33	1.38
-do- Accum	35.10	35.56	+ 0.35	1.38
Global Equity Inc	91.24	95.04	+ 1.47	0.92
Japan Smlr Cos	38.13	40.76†	+ 0.07	0.15
-do- Accum	38.47	41.11†	+ 0.07	0.15
Mngd Balanced	220.19	229.36	+ 2.43	2.85
-do- Accum	253.23	263.78	+ 2.80	2.85
Overseas Equity	224.86	234.22†	+ 3.14	0.95
-do- Accum	234.85	244.63†	+ 3.24	0.95
Oseas Smlr Cos	144.97	151.01	+ 1.54	0.85
-do- Accum	151.98	158.31	+ 1.62	0.85
Pacific	299.94	312.43	+ 6.14	1.25
-do- Accum	331.42	345.23	+ 6.79	1.25
Recovery	£21.63	£22.53†	+ 27.66	2.85
-do- Accum	£23.47	£24.45†	+ 30.02	2.85
UK Index	176.84	184.20	+ 1.21	3.32
-do- Accum	222.47	231.73	+ 1.52	3.32
UK Small Cos	128.43	133.78	+ 1.23	2.61
-do- Accum	139.35	145.16	+ 1.34	2.61
US Smlr Cos	62.14	64.72	+ 0.72	0.52
-do- Accum	63.56	66.20	+ 0.74	0.52
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	57.74	61.66	- 0.73	3.18
Equity Trust	72.72	76.90	+ 0.43	2.91
Equity Strategy	84.21	89.05	+ 0.42	1.75
European Opps	102.41	108.30	+ 0.63	0.42
UK Smaller Cos	72.76	76.94	+ 0.49	1.01
Maximum Inc	97.98	100.54	- 2.27	6.37
Japanese	83.46	88.26	+ 0.21	.
Asia Pacific	140.04	148.09	+ 3.59	0.03
American	131.77	139.35	+ 3.79	0.48
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	32.29	32.29	+ 0.02	5.87
UK General Inc	60.24	64.25	+ 0.33	3.35
-do- Accum	79.16	84.44	+ 0.44	3.39
Intl Income	299.18	319.18†	+ 4.30	1.63
-do- Accum	522.70	557.50†	+ 7.40	1.63
European	94.07	99.63	+ 0.18	1.79
Japan	72.71	77.02†	+ 1.55	.
American	91.38	96.74	+ 2.51	1.75
Far East	98.51	105.06	+ 2.69	1.37
Ethical Inc	35.58	38.07	+ 0.53	2.02
UK Blue Chip Inc	38.20	40.91	- 0.03	3.04
High Inc Inc	40.50	43.24†	+ 0.08	3.63
UK Global Inc	46.44	49.64	+ 0.18	1.88
Wwide Tact	81.28	86.72	+ 0.79	0.07
Europe 2000 Tact	62.79	66.72	+ 0.06	1.33
Technology	144.63	154.38†	+ 1.76	0.06
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	451.00	481.20	+ 5.00	2.75
American	344.20	364.90	+ 9.70	0.49
Pacific	444.80	474.90	+ 7.60	0.32
European	636.90	681.30	+ 6.50	1.14
Worldwide	103.70	110.60	+ 1.80	0.59
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	310.10	329.50	+ 3.00	2.49
-do- Accum	401.20	426.50	+ 4.50	2.49
UK Sir Co Eq Inc	241.20	256.70	- 3.90	1.32
-do- Accum	295.10	314.00	- 4.70	1.32
Select Opptny Inc	81.09	86.23	+ 0.33	1.90
Income Plus Inc	81.71	86.90	+ 0.35	5.49
European Inc	400.50	426.10	+ 4.30	1.45
-do- Accum	456.20	485.40	+ 4.90	1.45
Far Eastern Inc	204.20	217.30	+ 7.10	0.09
-do- Accum	234.30	249.30	+ 8.30	0.09
Japanese Inc	65.69	69.89	+ 0.69	...
Nth American Inc	308.79	328.59	+ 5.98	0.23
-do- Accum	341.40	363.28	+ 6.58	0.23

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	235.20	250.30	+ 4.50	0.32
Wwide Venture Inc	93.79	99.14	+ 1.41	0.37
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	420.50	442.40	+ 3.70	2.27
-do- Accum	631.50	673.50	+ 4.50	2.31
UK High Inc	205.40	219.70	+ 0.50	3.30
-do- Accum	307.90	328.40	+ 1.30	3.30
Europe Inc	443.80	473.30	+ 7.90	0.11
Nth Amer Inc	301.10	321.10	+ 6.90	...
Global Inc	254.80	258.70	+ 2.70	0.17
Global Acc	271.40	289.40	+ 2.30	0.17
UK Spec Sits Inc	118.50	126.40	+ 0.50	2.56
South East Asia	259.00	276.20	+ 7.90	0.44
Cash Trust Inc	100.70	100.70	+ 0.13	6.00
UK Smlr Co Inc	115.60	123.30	+ 0.10	1.79
-do- Accum	120.40	128.40	+ 0.90	1.79
Intl Bond Inc	100.10	106.20	- 0.50	5.38
For Sumper Lebon see High Peak				
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	150.60	158.70†	+ 2.70	0.22
Nth American	137.30	144.50†	+ 3.10	0.09
Intl Bond & Conv	130.20	137.10	- 0.70	6.54
Pooled Pension (C)	225.90	242.90	+ 2.00	1.97
Smaller Cos	107.60	105.30	+ 1.00	0.52
UK General	154.70	162.80	+ 0.50	2.52
Far Eastern	110.30	116.10	+ 1.90	.
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Amer Gth Fund ‡	124.01	..	+ 2.41	
Aztec ‡	69.25	...	+ 0.54	
European ‡	158.15		+ 1.86	0.29
Global Bond ‡	98.83	...	- 0.27	7.15
Investment Trust ‡	111.56		+ 1.80	1.93
Preferred Income ‡	105.06		+ 0.62	5.69
Samurai ‡	59.22		+ 0.76	
Sterling Reserve ‡	102.70		+ 0.07	6.05
UK Growth ‡	108.18		+ 1.20	2.30
3rd Pan ‡	115.14		+ 3.31	
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	109.28	..	+ 1.85	2.76
UK Equity Inc ‡	113.98		+ 2.02	5.32
Glob Gwth PEP	72.65	77.29	+ 0.83	1.29
Pref Inc PEP #	103.80	108.60†	+ 0.38	5.50
Inv Trust PEP	54.92	58.42	+ 0.42	.
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	432.70	457.80†	+ 13.60	.
Canadian	76.59	81.04	+ 0.90	0.45
Capital	144.00	154.20	+ 1.00	7.42
Cash	101.76	101.76	+ 0.08	5.78
European	154.40	163.30	+ 4.20	0.72
Far Eastern	170.60	180.50	+ 2.50	..
Growth	158.60	167.80†	+ 1.70	1.14
Income #	139.60	147.70	+ 1.70	4.73
Minerva	155.60	166.80†	+ 1.90	1.49
Smlr Secs	477.20	504.90	- 1.80	0.66
Thoroughbred	181.70	194.80†	+ 2.40	1.15
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01202 298 422				
Cntrftd Prfrnce	56.27	59.10	- 1.56	7.00
Ethical	74.38	79.98	- 1.66	8.50
European Growth	80.99	86.16	+ 1.44	1.60
Income	59.49	63.56	+ 0.54	4.30
Intl Growth	111.90	119.30	+ 2.00	1.60
Managed	93.00	99.20	+ 1.18	2.30
UK Growth	74.21	79.77	- 0.52	1.50
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	46.26	46.58†	+ 0.17	1.65
Global Advtg Acc	50.14	59.40	+ 0.42	1.65
Income Advtg Inc	36.02	36.21	- 0.13	3.14
Income Advtg Acc	41.83	41.24	- 0.15	3.14
UK Equity Gth Acc	85.66	90.60	+ 0.38	1.31
Premier Inc Inc	49.73	52.35	- 0.54	6.97
Premier Inc Acc	50.71	53.38	- 0.55	6.97
Managed Acc	60.71	64.36	+ 0.54	1.44
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	41.12	43.59	- 0.19	3.65
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	52.69	55.86	- 0.23	3.65
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	73.99	78.62	+ 0.07	2.08
UK Equity Gen Inc	53.97	57.29	+ 0.05	2.08
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	32.53	34.41	- 0.24	6.41
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	370.30	401.80	+ 9.40	1.58
Nth American Acc	56.66	61.69	+ 1.60	..
Pacific Basin	50.02	53.15	+ 1.31	0.76
European Acc	58.18	61.82	+ 0.54	1.36
Japan Acc	28.98	30.80	+ 0.05	..
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZ$)	4.321	4.587	+ 0.04	1.70
US Eqts (US$)	3.093	3.285	+ 0.02	0.97
Far East Eqts (yen)	261.80	278.10	+ 1.50	
FT Europe	149.90	159.20	+ 1.60	1.22
FT N Amer (US$)	2.337	2.482	+ 0.04	0.44
FT Japan (yen)	242.70	257.90	+ 4.40	
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	2.904	3.085	+ 0.09	0.79
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	492.00	522.00	+ 10.10	
British #	1205.40	1275.30	+ 12.80	3.05
Emerging Mkts	150.20	160.10	+ 4.10	0.69
European	622.50	662.20	+ 7.90	0.70
Japan	142.60	151.60	+ 0.60	..
New Pacific	447.20	476.30	+ 13.90	1.38
-do- Accum	476.70	507.70	+ 14.80	1.38
Inv Trust Acc	296.20	314.00	+ 2.50	0.82
Mngd Equity	198.90	210.40	+ 1.90	1.59
Mngd Cash	95.77	95.77†	+ 0.09	6.22
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 380				
Equity	991.60	1051.00†	+ 12.60	1.90
North America	177.60	189.80†	+ 4.00	
Far East	180.30	192.80†	+ 3.50	0.92
Wwide Bond	62.72	66.55	- 0.25	4.89
European	121.00	129.40	+ 2.50	1.31
Equity Income #	103.00	110.20	+ 1.10	4.28
Portfolio	104.60	111.20	+ 1.60	1.53
UK Leading Cos	72.78	77.63	+ 0.84	2.47
Broker Trusts				
Intnl Equity	75.16	80.38	+ 0.87	.
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Anteres UT	25.87	27.53†	+ 0.44	0.54
European	46.08	49.03†	+ 0.32	0.78
High Income	35.23	37.48	+ 0.13	3.93
Japan	38.08	40.52†	+ 0.13	0.07
Managed Assets	141.34	151.17†	+ 1.59	2.44
North American	40.39	42.97†	+ 0.69	0.48
Smlr Co's Inc	33.26	35.39	+ 0.07	2.04
Smlr Co's Acc	35.97	38.27†	+ 0.08	2.04
UK Growth Inc	62.19	66.16†	+ 0.51	2.72
UK Growth Acc	69.07	73.48†	+ 0.57	2.72
UK Income	44.71	47.82	+ 0.33	3.27
Worldwide Gth	41.24	44.11	+ 0.74	0.50
Confederation				
Canadian Exmpt	70.35	72.58	+ 1.12	1.90
European Exmpt	94.77	97.71	+ 1.44	1.76
Pacific Exmpt	67.57	69.67	+ 0.79	0.91
US Exmpt	95.91	98.88	+ 1.94	1.44
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	56.77	60.38	+ 0.82	.
Cap Protector Inc	44.68	47.51	+ 0.44	2.79
UK Income Inc	57.50	61.17†	+ 1.02	3.18
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	34.72	36.91†	+ 0.28	5.09
Mngd High Yld Inc	86.59	92.12†	+ 0.42	4.40
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	83.50	88.83	+ 1.01	3.29
UK Smaller Cos	38.82	41.30	+ 0.27	1.68
Pacific Gth Port	56.92	60.55†	+ 1.06	0.69
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 346 794				
American	285.97	302.61	+ 11.72	...
-do- Accum	314.98	333.31	+ 12.91	..
Brit Growth	113.19	119.78	+ 1.57	1.92
-do- Accum	138.72	146.80	+ 1.93	1.97
European	122.52	129.65	+ 2.17	...
-do- Accum	130.40	137.99	+ 2.31	..
Extra Income	208.01	220.12	+ 1.08	3.76
-do- Accum	368.56	387.80	+ 1.86	3.76
Smaller Cos	82.09	86.87	+ 0.23	0.78
-do- Accum	93.30	98.73	+ 0.25	0.78
General	333.13	352.52†	+ 3.09	2.25
-do- Accum	703.73	744.68†	+ 8.23	2.25
Premier Income	51.39	53.53†	- 0.38	6.38
-do- Accum	123.95	129.11†	- 0.91	6.38
Income	362.26	383.34	+ 2.80	3.41
-do- Accum	822.81	870.70	+ 6.36	3.41
Pacific	467.28	494.47	+ 8.21	.
-do- Accum	490.99	519.57	+ 9.68	..
International	643.57	681.02	+ 13.29	.
-do- Accum	847.92	897.27	+ 17.51	.
Nat Resources	210.28	222.51	+ 10.28	..
Skbl Opps	127.44	134.85	+ 1.42	1.71
-do- Accum	164.81	174.40	+ 1.84	1.71
Environmental Inv	72.38	76.59†	+ 0.48	1.29
Selector	71.38	75.51	+ 0.78	1.41
-do- Accum	82.01	86.78	+ 0.90	1.41
High Income	68.35	72.32	+ 0.42	4.21
-do- Accum	91.02	96.32	+ 0.57	4.21
Intl Income	65.37	69.17	- 0.06	5.04
-do- Accum	83.71	88.58	- 0.08	5.04
Selector Income	66.35	70.21	+ 0.19	4.07
-do- Accum	81.13	85.85	+ 0.23	4.01
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0161 667 1018				
British	383.75	403.95	+ 4.63	2.64
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	230.44	246.45†	+ 2.82	2.62
Glob Balncd Inc	194.78	208.32	+ 2.13	3.48
Value Tst Inc	138.47	148.10†	+ 2.18	1.80
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	45.88	47.72	- 0.19	5.99
European Growth	322.59	337.79	+ 5.46	0.70
Exempt	816.19	842.92†	+ 7.38	2.80
Global Em Mkts	91.60	95.81	+ 1.23	0.10
Japan Tst	83.26	87.18	+ 0.17	..
Little Dragons	106.26	111.26	+ 2.35	...
Nth Amer Gwth	293.50	307.41†	+ 7.45	0.60
Oriental Income #	50.55	52.93	+ 0.68	3.19
Preference	131.20	137.38		8.90
Tiger	328.69	344.16	+ 7.27	
UK Blue Chip	73.28	76.68†	+ 0.79	1.70
UK Growth	605.27	633.79	+ 7.95	2.40
UK High Yield #	111.74	117.00†	+ 0.29	5.00
UK Mid-Cap	285.88	299.35	+ 4.67	2.70
UK Smlr Cos	123.44	129.25	- 0.30	0.80
UK Smlr Cos Div #	86.05	90.03†	- 0.13	5.70
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01227 680 338				
UK Equity Income	108.92	116.84†	+ 0.53	3.45
UK Equity Growth	98.05	104.37	+ 0.62	2.73
European	75.96	80.81	+ 1.21	1.41
Nth American	88.05	93.67	+ 1.38	0.56
Far Eastern	80.12	85.23	+ 1.67	0.83
Money	68.79	68.79†	+ 0.05	5.29
Fixed Interest	77.97	82.95†	- 0.38	5.73
Index Linked Gilt	70.49	74.99	- 0.34	1.27
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	105.07	105.07	- 0.79	6.95
UK Index Tracking @	125.43	125.43	+ 1.65	2.72
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	30.79	32.94	+ 1.11	...
Pacific Basin	46.93	49.39	+ 0.03	
Global Bond (US$)	0.9252	0.9637	+ 0.00	...
Penny Share	46.20	49.63	- 0.35	...
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Challenger	103.20	106.20	- 0.40	2.90
Short Dtd Gilt	122.30	123.90	- 0.30	..
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7758	0.7960	+ 0.00	..
Gilt Income	52.75	54.80	- 0.31	6.60
Gilt Growth	77.44	80.50	- 0.71	..
Sterling Bond	50.07	51.94	- 0.28	7.09
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	54.80	58.17	+ 0.79	1.44
UK Stockmarket	94.41	100.50	+ 1.78	2.40
Corporate Bond	47.45	49.94	- 0.14	6.00

Source: Fintel

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. .. No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge.

Positive end to the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq	512	- 1	5.8	18.5
547½	390	Bulmer (HP)	547½	+ 8½	2.8	17.5
146	99	Burn Stewart	123		5.1	26.5
467	353	Greenall Whitley	434½	- 2½	4.3	15.3
536	404	Guinness	462	+ 3	3.8	14.3
445	315	Highland Dist	330	+ 2	3.0	15.0
217	157	Macallan-Glen	186		1.0	36.8
710	600	Macdonald Mrtn 'A'	630		2.2	17.0
694	532	Matthew Clark	656	...	4.2	...
140	61	Minstrel W	102		2.5	
2812½	1287½	SA Breweries	2468¾	...	1.5	32.6

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3090¾	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2890¾	+ 3½	4.4	10.9
663	413	Abbey Natl	609	+ 6	4.8	12.2
395	250	Allied Irish	364	- 4	4.0	10.9
338	198	Aust New Z	336	+ 2	4.9	
4443¾	2531¼	Bank America	4393¾	- 50		
316	191½	Bank Scotland	293	- 7	2.6	13.0
812½	557½	Barclays	786	+ 2	3.5	10.8
498	288	Bk of Ireland	460	- 3	3.6	9.4
525	418	Cater Allen	480	+ 1	7.8	7.9
4868¾	2450	Citicorp	4868¾			
370	216¼	Close Bros	358	- 1	3.0	16.3
£162½	£139¼	Commerzbk	£153½	+ 46¼	3.5	
1375	983¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1249¾	- 12½	0.4	
3312½	2775	Deutsche Bk	3275	+ 43½	2.2	
881¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	768¾	+ 81¼	4.8	10.0
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1456¼	- 50½	0.4	
490	395	Gerrard Nat	458	- 1	6.1	14.8
253	180	Hambros	202	- 3	4.6	
1125	589	HSBC	1124	+ 18	3.1	14.6
1099	578	HSBC HK	1097½	+ 10½	3.2	14.3
421	338	Irish Perm	415	- 1	2.9	9.6
463	353	Joseph (L)	453		5.2	15.6
154	85	King Shaxson	154	+ 1	7.3	12.0
350	308	Lloyds TSB	322	- 1		
640	479	Nat Aust Bk	640	+ 7	6.4	8.6
697	454	Nat West	667	+ 1	4.3	10.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	59		2.1	23.6
639½	373½	Royal Bk Scott	564	- 1	3.6	11.8
1478	908¾	Schroders	1270	- 15	1.4	18.1
1180	623¾	Scandrs NV	1018	- 5	1.7	14.5
111	81	Singer & Fried	105		4.4	10.9
862½	246	Stand Chart	849½	+ 18½	1.7	16.3
121	70	Unum	100		3.8	
£155¼	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£155¼	+ 50	1.9	
317½	211	Westpac	317½	+ 2½	4.4	
305	200	Woolwich	305	+ 10	4.9	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MINING

OIL & GAS

MEDIA

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
503	335	Abbott Mead	503	+ 11	2.0	29.8
310	260	Adscene	275		3.9	15.1
47	22	Aegis Gp	45½	- ½		10.2
7¾	1¾	Allied Radio	3½	- ½		
15	9	BBB Design	15			
315	155	Barbour Index	279	- 10	4.1	34.1
10½	4½	Birkdale	7½			
345	315	Black (A&C)	325		5.4	12.6
281	174	Blenheim Gp	257		5.0	15.8
290	196	Border TV	290	+ 4	1.9	23.8
372	335	Bristol	372		4.5	19.2

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
123	78½	Aberdeen Tsft	121	+ 4	2.6	23.8
101	75	BWD	93		6.3	13.5
78	36	Berry Bch Mol	36	..	9.0	10.2
295	148	Bisiac Inv	278	- 10		
158	112	Brewin Dolphin	153		4.9	15.9

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2368	425	Brit Biotech	1975	- 138		
535	303	Cantab Pharma	470			
832	233½	Celltech	475	- 42		
375	92½	Chiroscience	274	- 18		
284	31	Cortecs	244	+ 12		
969	587	Glaxo Wellcome	963	- 17	3.9	22.2
294	162	Medeva	234	- 5	1.9	15.1
260	200	Peptide Thera	209	- 2		
779	273	Scotia	609	- 6		
737	444	SmithKline	737	- 6	2.3	21.9
731	416	SmithKline Uts	728	+ 5	2.3	21.6
1337½	840	Zeneca	1245	- 31	2.8	25.4

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
611	343	Anglian	572	+ 2	5.9	8.8
430	295	Mid Kent Hldgs	430		3.9	11.6
1180	676	Northumbrian	1170		5.2	9.2
689	475	Severn Trent	635	+ 7	5.9	7.6
2400	1855	South Staffs	2368		3.8	13.9
565	459	South West	508	+ 5	6.9	7.1
731	517	Southern	685	- 2	5.0	8.3
575	456	Thames	548	+ 1	6.0	7.5
641	467½	Utd Utilities	596	+ 7	5.6	7.7
800	592½	Welsh	753	+ 8	7.0	9.0
108½	100½	Welsh Cm Pf	102	- ½	9.7	
381	256¾	Wessex	355	- 1	5.2	7.1
677½	472	Yorkshire	616	+ 5	5.3	8.1

Source: Finstat

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. §§ capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FT-SE 100 Index.

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BRITISH FUNDS

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
109⅝	102⅜	Treas 15¼% 1996	102⅜	- ⅛	14.92	6.03
107¼	102	Exch 13¼% 1996	102		12.99	5.95
104⅝	103⅛	Conv 10% 1996	103⅛		9.70	5.90
101⅝	97¼	Treas 7% 1997	101⅝xd		6.90	6.00
108⅞	106⅞	Treas 13¼% 1997	106⅞	- ⅛	12.41	5.93
105⅞	104⅝	Exch 10½% 1997	104⅝		10.04	5.93
104⅛	100⅛	Treas 8¾% 1997	103⅝	- ⅛	8.42	6.09
117⅛	114⅛	Exch 15% 1997	114⅛	- ⅛	13.13	6.16
107⅛	102⅝	Exch 9¾% 1998	105⅝	- 1	9.25	6.25
102⅝	96⅝	Treas 7¼% 1998	101⅝	...	7.11	6.30
100⅝	94⅝	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100⅜	...	6.74	6.64
117⅜	114⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	115⅝	- ⅛	12.07	6.41
124⅛	120⅛	Treas 15½% 1998	121⅝	- ⅛	12.75	6.49
114⅝	109⅝	Exch 12% 1998	113⅝	- ⅛	10.56	6.55
108⅝	100½	Treas 9½% 1999	107⅝	- ⅛	8.82	6.58
116⅝	111⅝	Exch 12¼% 1999	115⅝	- ⅛	10.59	6.66
112⅝	105⅝	Treas 10½% 1999	111⅝	- ⅛	9.45	6.69
98⅝	89⅝	Treas Fltg 6% 1999	97⅝	- ⅛	6.13	6.70
112⅝	105⅝	Conv 10¼% 1999	111⅝	- ⅛	9.21	6.81
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
108⅝	100⅝	Conv 9% 2000	107⅝	- ⅛	8.37	6.85
105⅛	96⅝	Treas 8% 2000	104⅝	- ⅛	7.65	6.90
124⅝	117	Treas 13% 2000	122⅝	- ⅛	10.58	6.90
114	104⅝	Treas 10% 2001	112⅝	- ⅛	8.90	7.08
101⅝	90⅝	Treas 7% 2001	99⅝	- ⅛	7.03	7.08
114⅛	103⅝	Treas 9¾% 2002	112⅝	- ⅛	8.64	7.28
105⅝	94⅝	Treas 8% 2003	103⅝	- ⅛	7.70	7.31
117⅝	105⅛	Treas 10% 2003	115⅝	- ⅛	8.68	7.36
119⅝	110⅝	Treas 11½% 2001-04	118⅝	- ⅛	9.72	7.18
83⅝	70½	Fund 3½% 1999-04	82⅝	- ⅛	4.25	6.27
114⅝	103⅛	Conv 9½% 2004	112⅝	- ⅛	8.45	7.53
96⅝	86⅝	Treas 6¾% 2004	95⅝	- ⅛	7.10	7.52
108⅝	97⅛	Treas 8½% 2005	106⅝	- ⅛	7.98	7.56
114⅝	103⅛	Conv 9½% 2005	112½	- ⅛	8.44	7.59
131⅛	119⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129⅝	- ⅛	9.68	7.49
101⅝	94⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	99⅝	- ⅛	7.54	7.58
103¼	92⅛	Treas 7¾% 2006	100⅝	- ⅛	7.69	7.63
104⅝	93⅛	Treas 8% 2002-06	102⅝	- ⅛	7.84	7.72
125⅝	113⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123⅛	- ⅛	9.53	7.42
109⅝	97⅝	Treas 8½% 2007	106⅛	- ⅛	8.00	7.67
138⅝	126⅝	Treas 13½% 2004-08	136⅛	- ⅛	9.92	7.50
112⅝	101⅛	Treas 9% 2008	110⅛	- ⅛	8.17	7.73
104⅛	94	Treas 8% 2009	101⅝	- ⅛	7.85	7.78
LONGS (over 15 years)						
98⅝	79⅝	Treas 6¼% 2010	86⅝	- ⅛	7.25	7.80
112⅝	101⅝	Conv 9% 2011	110⅝	- ⅛	8.18	7.97
113⅝	102⅝	Treas 9% 2012	110⅝	- 1⅛	8.16	7.87
82⅝	72⅝	Treas 5½% 2008-12	80⅝	- ⅛	6.83	7.61
103⅝	92⅝	Treas 8% 2013	101½	- ⅛	7.91	7.89
101⅝	91⅝	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	98⅝	- ⅛	7.83	7.89
104⅝	93⅝	Treas 8% 2015	101⅝	- 1	7.91	7.88
111⅛	100⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	108⅛	- 1⅛	8.08	7.94
141⅝	127⅝	Exch 12% 2013-17	137⅝	- 1⅛	8.71	7.98
UNDATED						
45⅝	40⅝	War Ln 3½%	43⅝	- ⅛	7.98	
32⅝	28⅛	Treas 2½%	31⅛	..	8.03	
50⅝	45⅛	Consols 4%	49⅛	- ⅛	8.10	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
216⅛	201⅛	Treas IL 2% 1996	216⅛	+ ⅛		2.07
113⅛	106⅛	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113	- ⅛	1.31	2.53
180⅛	165⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178⅝	- ⅛	2.88	3.38
176⅝	161⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174⅛	- ⅛	3.08	3.46
116⅝	108⅛	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	115⅛	- ⅛	3.11	3.45
185⅝	168⅛	Treas IL 2% 2006	183⅝	- ⅛	3.27	3.48
167⅛	152⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2009	165⅝	- ⅛	3.31	3.54
173⅛	157⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2011	171⅝	- ⅛	3.36	3.57
143	129⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141⅛	- ⅛	3.42	3.60
152⅛	137⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2016	150⅛	- ⅛	3.46	3.63
146⅛	131⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	144⅛	- ⅛	3.52	3.68
122⅛	109⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2024	120⅛	- ⅛	3.51	3.64
120⅝	108⅛	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	118⅝	- ⅛	3.53	3.66

Batty kept out in the cold by Harford

By Peter Ball

DAVID BATTY'S future at Blackburn Rovers is looking increasingly uncertain. Although Ray Harford, the manager, denied reports that Batty had failed to report for training last week, the England international midfield player was again omitted from the squad for the game against Bolton Wanderers today.

"At no time has David Batty been absent without leave." Harford said yesterday. "At no time has he been forced to train with the kids, and at no time have Batty and I had a row about team selection."

The player has, however, been unhappy since being substituted in the FA Cup defeat by Ipswich Town and further comments by Harford yesterday suggested that there are bridges to be mended. "You look at players in training, you look at them on fitness, attitude and application in training, and you make your judgment on whether they should be in the squad or not," he said. "And I don't feel that David should be."

There has been no suggestion that Batty is not fit and yesterday, with rumours of a move to Newcastle United persisting, he was still in the players' room when the squad began training.

Meanwhile, Blackburn's annual report provided a telling commentary on how their fortunes have changed, with their turnover — £14.1 million — showing an increase of 80 per cent on last year. Their trading profit, discounting transfers, was £605,000, compared with a loss of more than £900,000 a year ago.

McManaman shines on centre stage

Oliver Holt finds the England player revelling in his free role with Liverpool

McManaman is on target against Bolton but admits he does not get enough goals

Steve McManaman sits outside the clubhouse at Liverpool's Melwood training ground and gets busy living up to his reputation as the club's most laid-back player. His answers to questions are interrupted by constant teasing from his team-mates but he laps it up. "Don't worry if you fall asleep while he's talking to you," Rob Jones says. "I've woke him up twice already." McManaman shoots back.

He can afford to be relaxed about things these days. He has gone from a talented bit-part player who seemed destined to become an infuriatingly inconsistent contributor to the team to the man who makes Liverpool tick, the very heart of the side. When McManaman has not performed this season, Barnes, Fowler et al have not played to their potential either.

His form has taken him into the England team, too, although Terry Venables, the national team coach, insists on using him in a more rigid position on the left side of midfield rather than in the free role the Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, has granted him. Of late, his grip on a place in the national side has been undermined by the emergence of Steve Stone, a player more suited to the traditional demands placed on a wide man.

But as McManaman's form has propelled Liverpool into the midst of the championship race, ahead of Manchester United and their opponents today at Anfield, Tottenham Hotspur, it has become obvious that he has outgrown the label of a winger. He does not even play on the flank any more. More often than not, he picks the ball up deep and then runs at defences, opening up spaces for his colleagues to exploit. "Steve McManaman can run faster with the ball than most of us can without it," one of the Rochdale players on the wrong end of a 7-0 FA Cup third-round thrashing said last month.

"I have never really classed myself as a winger," McManaman said. "As far as I'm concerned, there are far better wingers in terms of getting to the byline and getting crosses in. I don't think that is one of my strengths.

"I like to get involved in the game more. That is why this free role here and having the licence to roam has been so great. With England, I can't go roaming too much because, with other people in fixed positions, you would leave them totally isolated. In my case, it would have been Stuart Pearce. You have got a job to do for England but at Liverpool, there are five at the back and the rest can just float about anywhere."

McManaman, bright-eyed, articulate and amiable smiles as Evans, standing a few yards away, sings his praises and talks again about the free role and how he thinks McManaman should have it in the national team, too.

If anything bothers McManaman, it is his lack of goals. The path to newspaper headlines and the enforced attention of the England coach, he knows, is through the back of the net and he has scored only six times this season. Stone has shown him the way in that.

"I definitely have to score more," he said. "I should be getting into double figures every year without a doubt. But I'm not the best in front of goal. Robbie Fowler's a complete natural and I'm not. It's not nervousness because I'm possibly the most laid-back player at this club, everyone will tell you that. It is just getting in the right position at the right time."

His heroes, Duncan McKenzie and Bob Latchford — McManaman was a true-blue Evertonian until he joined Liverpool on a YTS scheme — were both goalscorers but at Anfield he grew up under the early tutelage of Steve Heighway and the Liverpool religion of pass and move. Goalscoring came later.

"Pass and move is bred into you from an early age here," he said. "I never had any individual coaching from Steve about wing play because I had never picked out wingers as heroes. I just liked skilful players. He never said to me 'this is how you beat a man'. Some people can just do it."

On the evidence this season, McManaman is one of the lucky few.

Nigeria ban casts shadow

By Rob Hughes, Football Correspondent

AFRICA'S football overlords chose yesterday, the eve of the African Nations Cup final, to kick Nigeria out of world football from now until the next century. In doing so, they usurped the revivalist nature of South Africa, playing Tunisia in the final today, and, worse, they placed political tit-for-tat above sport, offering a reminder that, with Nigeria's withdrawal before proceedings got under way, this tournament had been devalued from day one.

The statutes of Fifa, football's world governing body, decree that it must now banish the Nigerians from at least the next World Cup, after the announcement that the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has suspended the country from the Nations Cup tournaments of 1998 and 2000. The decision was inevitable as soon as Nigeria failed to arrive in South Africa to defend the trophy that confirmed their status as the the continent's best team, but officials had almost three weeks in which to announce this judgment, so why on earth did they do so on the eve of the final?

Sadly, those punished are players such as Daniel Amokachi, of Everton, and Finidi George, of Ajax — players who are entirely innocent. They had wanted to perform, but their country's military dictator, General Sani Abacha, used them as his political reprisal to Nelson Mandela, the president of South Africa, who had called for sanctions against Nigeria after the hanging last November of nine dissidents.

In Nigeria's absence, there will be 80,000 people in the Soccer City stadium this evening to see South Africa take on Tunisia. One should perhaps shrink from prejudging Tunisia, remembering the precision of their counter-attacks and their four goals against Zambia in their semi-final, yet this young, totally home-based team is up against all manner of disadvantages. For example, their hotel, supposed to be ready for them when they arrived in Johannesburg, made them sit around for five hours before rooms were found.

It is an off-the-field version of the unfairness that opponents have found on the field against South Africa — in the semi-final, for example, Ghana had a goal disallowed when an overhead kick by Akkonor was deemed dangerous; in the same game, South Africa celebrated when John "Shoes" Moshoeu scored with a bicycle kick.

Moshoeu is a story in himself, a black player overlooked in Soweto, made to go to an obscure club in Turkey before he overcame his unassertive nature and thrust himself into the international reckoning. He has scored four times in the tournament and, with the inspiring white defender, Mark Fish, has been symbolic of Mandela's new "rainbow" nation.

The pugnacious South Africa coach, Clive Barker, said to Mandela at the start of the tournament: "You are an inspiration to us — we won't let you down." Indeed not. While England complain that five years out of Europe have ruined their chances at that level, South Africa are on the threshold of conquering their continent after 30 years in the wilderness.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Arsenal v Coventry
(2) Aston Villa v Leeds
(3) Blackburn v Bolton
(4) Liverpool v Tottenham
(5) Manchester City v QPR
(6) Newcastle v Sheff Wed
(7) Southampton v Everton
(8) West Ham v Nottingham Forest
(9) * Wimbledon v Man Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	23	17	3	3	45	19	54
Liverpool	24	13	6	5	48	21	45
Man Utd	24	13	6	5	42	27	45
Tottenham	24	11	8	5	33	24	41
Nottm F	24	10	10	4	35	33	40
A Villa	23	11	6	6	29	18	39
Blackburn	24	11	5	8	37	26	38
Arsenal	24	10	7	7	32	24	37
Everton	24	10	6	8	35	26	36
Chelsea	24	9	9	6	25	25	36
Leeds	24	10	5	9	31	34	35
Middlsbro	24	9	6	9	26	26	33
Sheff Wed	23	6	8	9	33	36	26
West Ham	23	7	5	11	25	35	26
Southampton	24	5	9	10	23	34	24
Wimbledon	24	6	6	12	33	46	24
Man City	24	5	6	13	14	34	21
Coventry	24	4	8	12	31	48	20
QPR	24	5	3	16	18	36	18
Bolton	24	3	4	17	23	46	13

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

(10) Barnsley v Watford
(11) Grimsby v Derby
(12) Huddersfield v Tranmere
(13) Ipswich v West Bromwich
(11.15 pitch inspection)
(14) Leicester v Luton
(15) Sheffield Utd v Oldham
(16) Southend v Millwall
(17) Wolverhampton v Sunderland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby	27	14	8	5	45	30	50
Charlton	26	12	9	5	39	28	45
Sundrland	26	11	10	5	31	20	43
Huddersfld	28	11	9	8	37	32	42
Southend	27	11	8	8	31	32	41
Millwall	28	10	10	8	30	34	40
Leicester	26	10	9	7	40	36	39
Stoke	27	10	9	8	37	33	39
Norwich	28	10	8	10	39	34	38
Birmingham	26	10	8	8	37	36	38
Ipswich	26	9	10	7	47	37	37
Barnsley	27	9	10	8	35	42	37
Grimsby	27	9	10	8	32	33	37
Tranmere	36	9	8	9	36	29	35
C Palace	25	8	10	7	32	33	34
Portsmth	29	8	9	12	45	47	33
Oldham	26	7	11	8	34	29	32
Reading	26	7	10	9	32	36	31
Port Vale	27	7	9	11	33	40	30
Wolvrhmptn	26	6	10	10	32	37	28
Luton	26	7	7	12	24	37	28
West Brom	26	7	4	15	29	45	25
Watford	25	5	10	10	28	32	25
Sheff Utd	27	5	8	14	33	46	23

FA VASE: Fifth round: Banstead Ath v Peacehaven and Telscombe, Belper Town v Clitheroe, Brigg Town v Trafford, Collier R v Ansley N, Flixton v Barwell; Wivenhoe Town v Mangotsfield Utd. **Postponed:** Raunds T v Torpoint A

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Bishop Auckland, Bamber Bridge v Knowsley, Barrow v Emley, Blyth Spartans v Colwyn Bay, Boston v Chorley, Buxton v Guiseley, Droylsden v Marine, Gainsborough v Winsford, Matlock v Hyde, Spennymoor v Frickley. First division: Alfreton v Gretna, Ashton United v Radcliffe, Bradford PA v Great Harwood; Congleton v Fleetwood; Harrogate Town v Eastwood Town; Netherfield v Lincoln United; Lancaster v Worksop; Warrington v Curzon Ashton, Whitley Bay v Leigh, Workington v Farsley Celtic

Second division

(18) Blackpool v Hull
(19) Bournemouth v Wycombe
(20) Brentford v Burnley
(21) Brighton v Wrexham
(22) Bristol Rovers v Walsall
(23) Chesterfield v Swansea
(24) Crewe v York
(25) Notts County v Peterborough
(26) Rotherham v Oxford Utd
(27) Shrewsbury v Bradford
(28) Stockport v Bristol City
(29) Swindon v Carlisle

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	25	14	8	3	42	17	50
Crewe	25	14	5	6	47	28	47
Blackpool	25	12	8	5	39	25	44
Notts Co	23	12	7	4	35	19	43
Bradford	27	12	4	11	38	43	40
Chestrfld	24	11	7	6	36	25	40
Burnley	25	10	8	7	39	33	38
Bournemth	26	11	5	10	33	36	38
Shrwsbury	26	11	4	11	35	35	37
Oxford Utd	25	10	7	8	33	25	37
Wrexham	25	8	12	5	35	27	36
Wycombe	26	8	12	6	32	27	36
Bristol R	26	9	8	9	30	36	35
Walsall	24	9	8	7	28	18	35
Stockport	26	8	9	9	32	29	33
Rotherham	26	8	7	11	32	39	31
Bristol City	27	7	10	10	25	37	31
Peterboro	24	7	8	9	34	38	29
Brentford	25	7	6	12	22	31	27
Carlisle	26	5	10	11	31	40	25
York	24	7	4	13	27	39	25
Swansea	25	5	9	11	26	42	24
Brighton	26	6	5	15	23	40	23
Hull	25	2	9	14	18	43	15

Third division

(30) Barnet v Scunthorpe
(31) Bury v Hereford . . . P
(32) Cambridge Utd v Gillingham
(33) Cardiff v Doncaster (1 0)
(34) Darlington v Leyton Orient
(35) Hartlepool v Rochdale
(36) Lincoln v Colchester
(37) Mansfield v Northampton
(38) Plymouth v Chester
(39) Scarborough v Exeter
(40) Torquay v Fulham
(41) * Wigan v Preston

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	26	15	7	4	35	10	52
Preston	26	12	12	2	53	24	48
Chester	26	12	8	6	44	31	44
Doncaster	25	12	5	8	31	32	41
Colchester	26	10	10	6	38	32	40
Darlington	26	10	9	7	29	26	39
Plymouth	27	10	8	9	41	33	38
Wigan	26	10	8	8	35	32	38
Northampton	26	10	7	9	23	25	37
Bury	25	9	9	7	29	31	36
Scunthorpe	25	9	8	8	39	32	35
Cambrdg Utd	26	9	6	11	40	45	33
Rochdale	25	9	6	10	35	30	33
Exeter	27	7	12	8	28	31	33
Hereford	24	7	10	7	35	30	31
Leyton Orien	27	8	7	12	26	36	31
Mansfield	27	6	12	9	34	46	30
Barnet	26	6	12	8	27	32	30
Hartlepool	25	7	8	10	26	35	29
Cardiff	26	7	8	11	24	30	29
Fulham	25	5	11	9	30	36	26
Scarborough	26	5	11	10	27	37	26
Lincoln	25	6	8	11	24	38	26
Torquay	25	3	8	14	22	47	17

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Altrincham v Welling
(—) Farnborough v Southport
(—) Halifax v Hednesford
(—) Kettering v Gateshead
(8 30 pitch inspection)
(—) Kidderminster v Dag and Red
(—) Macclesfield v Northwich
(—) Slough v Telford
(—) Stalybridge v Dover . P
(—) Stevenage v Runcorn
(—) Woking v Bromsgrove

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Crusaders, Glenavon v Bangor, Glentoran v Portadown, Linfield v Cliftonville

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(42) Celtic v Hibernian
(43) Falkirk v Kilmarnock
(44) Hearts v Raith
(45) Motherwell v Aberdeen
(46) Partick v Rangers

First division

(47) Airdrie v Clydebank
(48) Dundee Utd v St Johnstone
(49) Dunfermline v Dundee
(50) Greenock Morton v Hamilton
(51) St Mirren v Dumbarton

Second division

(52) Ayr v Stenhousemuir
(53) East Fife v Clyde
(54) Montrose v Berwick
(55) Stirling v Queen Of South
(56) Stranraer v Forfar

Third division

(57) Albion v East Stirling
(58) Alloa v Ross County
(—) Arbroath v Queen's Park
(—) Cowdenbeath v Caley This
(—) Livingston v Brechin

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton v Sudbury Tn, Chelmsford v Dorchester; Cheltenham v Atherstone; Gloucester v Crawley; Halesowen v Gravesend and Northfl, Hastings v Ilkeston, Merthyr v Cambridge City; Rushden and Diamonds v Worcester; Stafford v Baldock. VS Rugby v Salisbury. Midland division: Bedworth v Evesham. Bilston v Dudley Town, Corby v Rothwell, Grantham v Buckingham Town; Kings Lynn v Redditch, Leicester United v Bridgnorth, Moor Green v Tamworth; Nuneaton v Hinckley Town, R C Warwick v Bury Town. Stourbridge v Paget R. Sutton Coldfield v Solihull. Southern division: Braintree v Fleet T, Clevedon v Erith and Belvedere, Fareham v Weston-super-Mare, Fisher 93 v Weymouth, Forest Green v Newport I O W, Havant v Poole, Sittingbourne v Trowbridge, Tonbridge Angels v Cinderford: Yate v Ashford

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromley v Aylesbury; Dulwich v Hitchin, Harrow v Boreham Wood, Hendon v St Albans. Molesey v Kingstonian, Purfleet v Bishop's Stortford, Sutton United v Chertsey; Walton and Hersham v Enfield, Worthing v Hayes. Yeading v Grays. Yeovil v Carshalton. First division: Aldershot Town v Thame; Berking v Wembley. Basingstoke v Berkhamsted. Bognor Regis v Heybridge Swifts, Chesham v Leyton Pennant, Marlow v Oxford City, Ruislip Manor v Staines, Tooting and Mitcham v Maidenhead United; Uxbridge v Wokingham, Whyteleafe v Abingdon Town. Second division. Chalfont St Peter v Croydon, Cheshunt v Saffron Walden, Hampton v Metropolitan Police. H Hempstead v Egham. Hungerford v Edgware. Tilbury v Leatherhead. Witham v Dorking. Third division: Camberley v Lewes. Clapton v Northwood. East Thurrock v Wingate and Finchley. Epsom and Ewell v Aveley. Hornchurch v Southall. Horsham v Cove, Leighton v Hertford. Tring v Harefield, Wealdstone v Flackwell Heath; Windsor and Eton v Harlow

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry v Aberystwyth (2 30), Briton Ferry v Bangor City (2 30) Caersws v Inter Cardiff. Cemaes Bay v Rhyl. Connah's Quay v Porthmadog. Conwy v Holywell (2 30). Llanelli v Afan Lido (12 30) Llansantffraid v Ebbw Vale. Newtown v Caernarfon

FA OF WALES TROPHY: Quarter final replay: Oswestry v Penrhyncoch

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division. Basildon U v Concord; Burnham Ramblers v Eton Manor; East Ham v Stansted: Ford United v Brentwood; Great Wakering v Southend Manor. Hullbridge Sports v Maldon. Sawbridgeworth v Romford. Cup: Fourth round: Frenford Senior v Broomfield, Sandon Royals v B N R/Nortel Shell Club v Kelvedon Hatch

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Tottenham Omada, Brimsdown v Croydon Waltham Abbey v Cockfosters. Willesden (Hawkeye) v Woolwich. Cup: Third round, second leg: Brook House v Tufnell Park, Hanwell v St Margaretsbury; Hillingdon Boro v Corinthian-Casuals

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chipstead v Ash; Cobham v Godalming and Guildford; Cranleigh v Raynes Park Vale. Feltham v Walton Casuals. Hartley Wintney v Bedfont; Horley v Peppard. Merstham v DCA Basingstoke. Viking Sports v Sandhurst: Westfield v Farnham. Netherne v Ashford

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta v Biggleswade. Buckingham Athletic v Harpenden. Dunstable v Welwyn Garden; Letchworth v Langford; London Colney v Arlesey Town; Potters Bar v Toddington, Royston v Shillington

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Paulton R, Bridport v Backwell; Brislington v Torrington; Calne v Crediton; Frome v Bideford. Odd Down v Westbury; Tiverton v Chippenham

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v Great Yarmouth; Hadleigh U v March; Newmarket v Felixstowe; Sudbury Res v Stowmarket; Sudbury v Soham; Watton v Cornard; Wisbech v Tiptree. Woodbridge v Haverhill. Cup: Quarter-finals: Halstead v Warboys.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v Gosport; B A T v Downton. Bemerton Heath v Christchurch. Brockenhurst v Swanage and Herston, Cowes Sports v Thatcham, East Cowes v Ryde Sports, Petersfield v Wimborne. Portsmouth v Andover

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Arundel; Eastbourne Town v Stamco; Hailsham v Three Bridges; Mile Oak v Pagham; Portfield v Oakwood. Ringmer v Horsham Y M C A. Shoreham v Southwick. Whitehawk v Langney Sports; Wick v Hassocks

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Furness, Corinthian v Faversham: Cray v Beckenham, Dartford v Herne Bay; Deal v Canterbury. Hythe v Slade Green. Sheppey v Greenwich. Tunbridge Wells v Ramsgate. Whitstable v Crockenhill

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division. Bicester v Carterton; Burnham v Banbury; Swindon Supermarine v Tuffley. Premier division Cup: North Leigh v Cirencester.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division. Holbeach v Desborough, Kempston v Wellingborough. Newport Pagnell v Cogenhoe. Northampton Spencer v Bourne. St Neots v Stamford. Spalding v Potton. S and L Corby v Long Buckby; Stotfold v Eynesbury; Wootton v Boston.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND FOOTBALL ALLIANCE: Boldmere S v Sandwell. Chasetown v Oldbury U. Halesowen H v Shepshed D. Knypersley V v Hinckley Athletic. Pershore T v Shifnal T. Rocester v Blakenall. Rushall O v Boldmere St M. Willenhall v Stapenhill

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch Villa v Handrahan Timbers, Stratford v Upton, Coleshill v Northfield. Coventry Sphinx v Ansells. Highgate v Studley B K L. Massey Ferguson v Kings Heath. Meir KA v Shirley. Olton Royale v Chelmsley. Wellesbourne v Southam. President's Cup. Third round: GMT v Holy Land. Polesworth N W v Monica Star. Challenge Vase. Second round: Blackheath Electrodrives v Bromsgrove

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE. Premier division: Bloxwich S v Gornal A. Brierley Hill T v Cradley Town. Darlaston v Pelsall V. Ettingshall HT v Stafford T. Lichfield C v Walsall Wood. Malvern T v Wednesfield. Stourport S v Ludlow T. Tividale v Lye Town. Westfields v Hill Top R

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division. Bootle v Blackpool Rovers. Darwen v Nantwich. Eastwood H v Skelmersdale. Glossop North End v Salford. Maine Road v Burscough. Mossley v Kidsgrove. Newcastle Town v Chadderton. Prescot v St Helens. Rossendale v Penrith

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Dunston Federation, Billingham v Crook; Consett v Seaham Red Star; Durham v Murton, Guisborough v Ferryhill; Shildon v Peterlee; Stockton v Chester-le-Street; West Auckland v Tow Law; Whickham v R T M Newcastle; Whitby v Eppleton C W.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v UCD (7.0). Sligo v Athlone (7 30)

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: McEwan's Lager North Cup: Second round: Brora v Clachnacuddin; Elgin v Forres Mechanics; Nairn County v Lossiemouth: Rothes v Fort William.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton Ath v West Ham; Chelsea v Arsenal; Fulham v Cambridge Utd; Gillingham v Tottenham Hotspur; Norwich v Portsmouth; Queens Park Rangers v Ipswich; Southend v Watford

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Bradfieldians v Foresters; Brentwoods v Aldenhamians; Carthusians v Chigwellians. Premier division: Etonians v Reptonians; Lancing v Cholmeleians. First division: Haberdashers v Witleians, Salopians v Ardinians; Wellingburians v Harrovians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Latymer v O Hamptonians; O Danes v O Aloysians. O Isleworthians v Cardinal Manning; O Meadonians v Clapham. Senior first division: O Manorians v O Kingsburians; O Salvatorians v Phoenix. O Tenisonians Res v Chertsey; O Wilsonians v O Vaughanians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Nat West Bank v South Bank. Norsemen v Kew Association: O Esthameians v Crouch End Vampires. Second division: O Bromleians v Alexandra Park; O Latymerians v O Stationers, O Parkonians v O Parmiterians. Third division: Brentham v Merton; Ibis v Broomfield, O Westminster Citizens v O Salesians. Southgate Olympic v Alleyn OB

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Hale End Athletic v Witan, O Grammarians v Albanian. Parkfield v Southgate County. Senior two. City of London v Mill Hill Village. Corinthian Casuals v Honourable Artillery Co. O Woodhouseians v O Bealonians. UCL Academicals v O Finchleians. Wandsworth Bor v Hadley

AFA SENIOR CUP: Third round: Bank of England v O Ignatians; Barclays Bank v Polytechnic. Hampstead Heathens v O Tenisonians. Lloyds Bank v West Wickham; O Actonians v O Suttonians; O Lyonian v Wake Green. O Tiffinians v Carshalton; Ulysses v Civil Service

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Army v Gloucestershire (Military Stadium, Aldershot)

SCHOOLS MATCHES (kick-off 10.30 unless stated) Under-18 international trial: England XI v English Universities (at Lilleshall 2 0). FA Fuji Film Trophy: Middlesbrough v West Bromwich (at ICI Wilton, 1 30). FA Premier League under-16 Trophy: Inner London v Cambridgeshire (at Douglas Eyre. 11 0). English Girls Shield: Dartford v Bexley. English Eagles Trophy: Sutton v Croydon. London Sun Shield: Barking v Islington. London Beaufoy Cup. South London v Blackheath. Vale Cup: Vale of White Horse v Watford. Kent Cup: Orpington v Gravesham, Medway v Maidstone. Essex Welsh Shield: Havering v Thurrock. Middx Compton Cup. Harrow v Barnet. Southern League: Aldershot v Oxford, Gosport v South West Avon. Reading v Bristol; Southampton v Swindon. Shaw Cup: Lowestoft v Ipswich; Yarmouth v Peterborough; West Suffolk v Norwich. Goodhand Trophy: Nottingham v Derby. South Notts v East Riding. English Snickers under-19 Trophy: York Coast College, North Yorks v St Mary's College, Cleveland. English Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Newlands, Cleveland v Farringdon, Durham. Inter-Association: Leeds v Sheffield. Inner London six-a-side championships (at Walthamstow, 10 0). English Southwest Region sevens final (at Paignton, 11.30). Northern Region sevens final (at Chester-le-Street, 11 30)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Five nations championship

England v Wales
(at Twickenham)
Scotland v France
(at Murrayfield)

Tennents Championship
Regional League
East One

Watsonians v Haddington (11.0)

CLUB MATCHES: Camborne v Plymouth (12.0); Fylde v Waterloo (1.0); Harlequins v Rugby (12.0); Harrogate v Pontefract (2.15); Hull Ionians v Rotherham (2.30): Leeds v Sandal (2.30). London Welsh v Cardiff (11.30); Newcastle v Morley; Rosslyn Park v Clifton (12.0); Sheffield v Otley (2.30); Stoke v Bradford and Bingley (2.30); Wakefield v Orrell (2.30); Winnington Park v Burton (2.30).

CANCELLED: Barking v Eton Manor; Lichfield v Wolverhampton; London Scottish v Reading; North Walsham v Sudbury; Redruth v Torquay.

RUGBY LEAGUE

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: First round: Crossgates v Waterhead. Second round: Ackworth v Ship Inn; Askam v Dalton; Aspatria v Kells; Batley Victoria v Langworthy; Batley Boys v Stanley Rangers; Beverley v Wigan St Cuthberts, Blackpool Stanley v Rylands; Brotherton v Stanningley; Broughton Red Rose v Barrow Island; Chequerfield v Upton and Frickley; Crofton v Leeds Social; Crosfields v Worth Village, Dewsbury Celtic v Talbot; Dewsbury Moor v Blackbrook; Dodworth v Halton Simms Cross; East Leeds v Ossett Trinity; Eastmoor Select v Siddal, Eastmoor v Dudley Hill; Eccles v Knottingley Rock; Farnworth ROB v Featherstone M W, Featherstone Amateurs v BRK, Flimby v Redhill, Folly Lane v Shaw Cross; Frizington v Distington; Fryston v Moldgreen, Glasson Rangers v Milford, Haydock v Westfield Welfare; Hensingham v Rose Bridge, Heworth v Wigan St Judes; Hull Dockers v Westfield Hotel; Kippax v Mayfield, Kirkholt WMC v Walney Central; Leigh Miners v Saddleworth; Leigh East v Woolston; Littleborough v Wigan St Patricks; Liversedge v Dewsbury North; Lock Lane v Pilkington Recs; Lowca v Queensbury; Millom v Park Amateurs; Mysons v Oldham St Annes; Norland v Embassy; Normanton v Thornhill Rangers; Oulton v Skirlaugh; Prestwich v Brassmoulders, Queens v Bisons, Reckitts v Brighouse Rangers; Roose v Thornhill, Seaton v Orrell St James; Sharlston Rovers v Clayton; Illingworth v Wigan St Judes A; St Nicholas Arms v Ovenden. Tameside Borough v Keighley Albion; Underbank Rangers v Ideal ABI, Walnut Warriors v Royston; West Bowling v Widnes St Bedes; West Hull v Wigton; Westgate Redoubt v Moorends; Whitemoor Warriors v New Earswick A B; York Acorn v Ellenborough Rangers; Widnes St Maries v London Colonials

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bournville v Southgate (Birmingham University, 12.30).

HA CUP: Fifth round: Beeston v Guildford (Highfields, Nottingham, 12.30); Firebrands v Teddington (Longwood, Bristol, 12.45). Havant v Edgbaston (Havant College, 1.0). Old Loughtonians v Trojans (Chigwell, 1.30). Richmond v Reading (Teddington School, 1.0).

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford v Bournemouth; Chichester v Fareham; High Wycombe v Oxford Hawks; Lewes v Spencer; Lions v Maidenhead; Newbury v Anchorians. Old Walcountians v Winchester; Wimbledon v Beckenham; Woking v Gore Court; Wokingham v Old Kingstonians. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Oxted; Camberley v London University. Epsom v Old Cranleighans; Old Edwardians v Cheam, Old Mid. Whitgiftians v Andover, Old Whitgiftians v Dulwich; Oxshott v Basingstoke; Solent HC v Southampton. Purley v Petersfield, Walton and Weybridge v Blandford. Kent/Sussex: Bexleyheath v Belvedere; Blackheath v Crawley. Bognor v Bexley Invicta, Brighton v Herne Bay. Mid Sussex v Old Williamsonians; Old Beccehamians v Horsham; Sevenoaks v Old Holcombeians, Tulse Hill v Old Bordenians; Tunbridge Wells v Marden Russets; Worthing v Middleton. Middx/ Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Staines; Bracknell v Sunbury; City Of Oxford v Richings Park; Eastcote v Ramgarhia. Harrow v OMT; Hayes v Milton Keynes; HCC v NPL; Headington v ETESSA; Hendon v PHC Chiswick; Mill Hill v Marlow.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Loughborough Students; Bloxwich v Harborne; Bridgnorth v Hampton-in-Arden; John Player v Khalsa; North Notts v Nottingham.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding v Harrogate; Neston v Southport; Norton v Warrington; Sheffield v Halifax; Timperley v Formby.

ADNAMS HOCKEY EAST LEAGUE: Premier A: Bedford Town v Cambridge Univ; Bishops Stortford v Cambridge City; Chelmsford v Bury St Edmunds; Colchester v Redbridge and Ilford; Ipswich v Peterborough Town. Premier B: Clacton v Ipswich and East Suffolk; Dereham v Luton Town; Norwich City v Sudbury. Old Southendian v Brentwood; Romford v Stevenage

AEWHA INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: Under-16, Under-19 Group A: Braintree HC, Alice Harpur, Bradford HC, Sunbury HC, Portishead HC Group B Old Loughtonians, Bromsgrove, John Deane's, City of Portsmouth HC: Exmouth HC (Crystal Palace, 8.50am)

WOMEN'S WELSH LEAGUE: Cardiff Ath v Haverfordwest; Penarth v Newport: Pontypridd v Llanfair; Swansea v Newtown:

CLUB MATCHES: Bexleyheath v Chelmsford, Bracknell v Bournemouth; Cheltenham v Reading; Crimson R v Doncaster, Guildford v St Albans, Hampton v Colwall, Old Loughtonians v Blueharts; Poynton v Liverpool; Woking v Hampstead, York v Bradford

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham v Chester (7.30); Leicester v Newcastle (7.30). Manchester v Worthing (7 30); Hemel v Thames Valley (7 30).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Bury v. Stockton; Coventry v Nottingham; Mid-Sussex v Ware, Plymouth v Cardiff. Women: First division: Ipswich v Nottingham; London v Spelthorne

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Newcastle (8.30); Fife v Sheffield (7.15), Humberside v Cardiff (5.45), Nottingham v Milton Keynes (6.30) First division: Chelmsford v Blackburn (6.30), Dumfries v Bracknell (7.30). Medway v Manchester (6.0), Murrayfield v Swindon (7.0) Paisley v Guildford (7.0); Solihull v Peterborough (5.30); Telford v Billingham (7 30)

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA Indoor Championships (National Arena, Birmingham)

BOWLS: Masters pairs (County Antrim). Liberty Trophy: Semi-finals: Cornwall v Durham; Essex v Wiltshire.

BOXING: European lightweight championship: Angel Mona (Fr, holder) v Michael Ayers (Streatham) (Levallois Peret, Paris).

CYCLING: Five Cities Super League (Final round, Manchester, 7.0).

LACROSSE: Daily Telegraph Junior Flags: Semi-finals: Cheadle A v Nottingham University; Rochdale v Moorthorpe. Shepherds Friendly Society League. Premier division: Boardman and Eccles v Cheadle Hulme; Heaton Mersey v Timperley; Poynton v Hulmeians.

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix meeting (Cardiff).

VOLLEYBALL: National League Men: First division: Warwick Riga v Newcastle (Staffs). Solent v Manchester Utd Salford; Wessex v Reebok Liverpool City; Whitefield v KLEA Leeds; Polonia Ealing v Tooting Aquila; Team Mizuno Malory Lewisham v Sheffield.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Chelsea v Middlesbrough (4 0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Charlton v Crystal Palace (2.55)
Norwich v Birmingham
* Port Vale v Stoke (12 0)
Reading v Portsmouth

FA VASE: Fifth round: Thamesmead v Canvey Island (at Slade Green FC)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: League of Wales v Chunnam Dragons (at Leckwith Stadium, Cardiff, 2.0)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cork v St Patrick's Ath (2 45): Dundalk v Bohemians (3.15). Shamrock v Drogheda (2.45)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National league: Liverpool FC Ladies v Doncaster Belles. Villa Aztecs v Ilkeston

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Tranmere v Croydon. Semi-final: Arsenal v Wembley

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Garswood St Helens v RTM Newcastle: Kidderminster Harr v Bronte. Langford v Notts Co. Southern division: Berkhamsted v Southampton Saints; Brighton and Hove v Town and County; Leyton Orient v Ipswich, Oxford Utd v Three Bridges

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fifth-round replay: Everton v Huddersfield.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Under-18 international trial: England XI v Loughborough College (at Lilleshall, 10 15)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Leicester (5 0): Doncaster v Leopards (5.30), London v Hemel (5 0): Newcastle v Derby (6.0): Sheffield v Manchester (6.15)

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Brixton v Solent

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Newcastle (6.15): Durham v Fife (6 30): Milton Keynes v Humberside (6.0): Slough v Basingstoke (6 30). First division: Billingham v Chelmsford (5.15); Blackburn v Telford (6 0). Manchester v Bracknell (6.0), Murrayfield v Guildford (6 30): Paisley v Swindon (6 30). Peterborough v Dumfries (5.30); Solihull v Medway (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA Indoor championships (National Arena, Birmingham)

BOWLS: Masters pairs (County Antrim).

LACROSSE: Daily Telegraph senior flags: Semi-final: Stockport v Sheffield

SNOOKER. Regal Welsh Open (Newport)

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix meeting (Cardiff).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

CIS county championship
South
Semi-final

Berkshire v Gloucestershire
(at Reading, 2.15)

CIS under-21 divisional championship

London and South East v South West 2
(at Imber Court)
North v Midlands
(at Otley, 2 15)

Tennents championship
Regional League
East one

Biggar v Boroughmuir (3.0)

East two

Heriot's FP v Dundee HSFP (3.0)
Stewart's Mel FP v Kirkcaldy (3.0)

West

Glasgow Acads v Wigtownshire (3 0)
West of Scotland v Stirling County (2 0)

Club matches

High Wycombe v Marlow (2.0)
Waterloo v Orrell
West Hartlepool v Newcastle (3.0)

Women's home nations' championship

England v Wales
(Leicester, 2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fourth round

Bradford v Batley
Carlisle v Wakefield (2.0)
Castleford v St Helens (3 30)
Hull v Hunslet (3 15)
Hull K R v Leigh (3.15)
Keighley v Barrow (3.15)
Oldham v Warrington
Rochdale v Thatto Heath
Swinton v Leeds
Whitehaven v Halifax (3.30)
Workington v Widnes

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Second round: Weaverham v Bulwell.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cannock v Guildford (Morris Ground 2.30). Canterbury v Stourport (Polo Farm, 1.30); East Grinstead v Old Loughtonians (St Hill, 2.0). Havant v Indian Gymkhana (Havant College, 2.15); Hounslow v Trojans (Dukes Meadow, Chiswick, 2 0). Hull v Barford Tigers (Orchard Park, 2.0): Surbiton v St Albans, (Sugden Road, 2 30); Teddington v Reading (Teddington School, 1.30). Second division: Beeston v Sheffield (Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0), Bromley v Brooklands (Priory LC, Orpington, 1.30); Crostyx v Slough (Chigwell, 1.0); Doncaster v Gloucester City (Bennetthorpe, 2.0); Firebrands v City of Portsmouth (Clifton College, Bristol, 1.30); Hampstead and Westminster v Blueharts (Paddington Recreation Ground, 12.30), Harleston Magpies v Richmond (Shotford Heath, 2.0); Isca v Edgbaston, (Exeter School, 2.30), Olton and West Warwickshire v Oxford University (Grange Road, Birmingham, 2.0).

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INDOOR CUP: Semi-finals and final (Bells SC, Perth).

AEWHA INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: Under-19 and under-16 (Crystal Palace, 8 50am).

CLUB MATCHES: Bedans v Whitley Bay; Colwyn Bay v Stockport, Newport v Leominster

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	3	72	fair	heavy	art	cloud	5	27/1
(High pistes in good shape but heavy late on)								
Mayrhofen	4	43	icy	varied	closed	cloud	-5	27/1
(Runs hard-packed with icy/worn paths; snow forecast)								
St Anton	20	120	hard	varied	icy	cloud	-3	8/1
(Pistes softer because of milder weather; snow forecast)								
Schladming	20	40	fair	crust	art	fine	3	28/1
(Generally good with soft snow on firm base)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	65	220	good	varied	fair	fair	3	1/2
(Improved skiing on new snow: some icy/bare patches)								
Les Arcs	30	160	fair	varied	soft	fair	2	22/1
(Best snow at altitude; lower runs much softer)								
Flaine	20	145	fair	heavy	worn	cloud	-4	23/1
(Flat light because of cloudy skies; 22 of 31 lifts open)								
Megeve	0	50	fair	heavy	worn	cloud	5	26/1
(Milder with some slush, highest pistes OK)								
La Plagne	60	140	fair	crust	worn	cloud	3	24/1
(Good snow still to be found; mild air softening ice)								
Tignes	73	130	good	heavy	good	snow	-1	2/2
(Excellent skiing on fresh snow: some good powder)								
SWITZERLAND								
Murren	15	110	fair	moguls	worn	cloud	-1	7/1
(Schilthorn freshly pisted and skiing well)								
Verbier	65	90	fair	moguls	art	cloud	-4	25/1
(Some pistes good, many worn and icy)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes: U - upper; art - artificial.

Slope Off To A Cosy Chalet.

INCLUDING AFTERNOON TEA PLUS WINE WITH DINNER

Destination	Chalet, Grade & Board		Date	Airport	Brochure Price	New Price	Saving Per Person
Courchevel, France	Chalet Du Forum (wpb)	5T HB	24 Feb	Gatwick	£636	£439	£197
Val Thorens, France	Chalet Les Montagnettes (wvj)	4T HB	24 Feb	Bristol	£475	£399	£76
Verbier, Switzerland	Chalet Hermes	3T HB	02 Mar	Birmingham	£476	£419	£57
La Plagne, France	Chalet Talenti	2T HB	24 Feb	Luton	£425	£339	£86
Les Deux Alpes, France	Chalet Perce Neige	4T HB	24 Feb	Gatwick	£399	£379	£20
La Plagne, France	Chalet Les Montagnettes	4T HB	02 Mar	Gatwick	£499	£439	£60
Val d'Isere, France	Chalet du Jardin Alpin	4T HB	24 Feb	Gatwick	£538	£449	£89
Val Thorens, France	Chalet Daphne	4T HB	24 Feb	Luton	£491	£419	£72

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ON ITV PAGE 289

*Voted by travel agents in the annual Travel Weekly Globe Awards. Credit card payment surcharge applies. Prices based on two people sharing a twin room in a chalet on half board terms. Prices are guaranteed until 6pm Monday 5th February. All holidays are subject to availability. Thomson Tour Operations Limited, ATOL 2524, ABTA V5126.

EXCELLENT SKIING CONDITIONS IN NORWAY

Plenty of snow has now arrived in
Geilo
Hemsedal
Lillehammer &
Gudbrandsdalen

0171 321 0666
NORWEGIAN TOURIST BOARD
SKI HOTLINE

Memo to a manager careering off learning curve

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

Dear Bryan,

This is England calling ... your country needs you. With an act of timing not untypical of the Football Association, you were, on Monday, deemed guilty in your absence of bringing the game into disrepute by speaking unforgivable words to a referee. Fine: £750.

By Tuesday, the gentlemen of the FA's international sub-committee had apparently dispatched Jimmy Armfield to find you and convince you to leave Middlesbrough in mid-contract and accept the post of England coach.

The message is that you are uniquely placed as the only individual who both assists Terry Venables, the incumbent coach, and is eligible to be his successor after the European championship.

Rightly, I feel, your initial response is that you are too young, that you are on a learning curve as a manager of men, that this offer comes, at least, two years too soon.

After barely 18 months in management, you need, as even a man who has captained his country 65 times must need, to undergo the day-to-day process of acquiring the acumen to guide the careers of younger recruits. At club level you are entitled to make mistakes, to misjudge situations and men, and then to be able to correct errors within a matter of days, so fast is the playing cycle.

England, of course, deprives its coach of this. This month, Venables attempted to gather his players for a much-needed training session but the weather and the unavailability of his chosen internationals scuppered the plan. The England coach is not master of his players' time and the isolation, the months of living on the periphery of the game, would inhibit your need to learn.

Yet the men at Lancaster Gate have determined that you, and you alone, can bridge the gap. The word they use is continuity. They see you continuing the process of changing England's ways, begun by Venables, and they see you teaming up with Don Howe, the senior citizen of the coaching team.

'Go with the tremendous goodwill of millions'

You and Don can work together, no doubt. It was he, as the manager of West Bromwich Albion, who first took a chance on a skinny 15-year-old from Durham. Much later you, the England captain, and Howe, the England coach, persuaded Robson to change tactics and deploy a sweeper at the 1990 World Cup, a tournament that took England further on foreign soil than any in history.

But when we speak of continuity, perhaps there is another interpretation of that on Teesside. You have there two established, continuous relationships. One is with a chairman, Steve Gibson, who loves the game so much that he actually plays for the fun of it. He is younger than your 39 years, and the FA council has members who seem older than Methuselah.

The second most important man to you is Viv Anderson, a friend since your Manchester United days, and the assistant manager who has shared every pressure, every decision, every reward you have known at Middlesbrough. Do you, for the sake of continuity, take Anderson to the FA with you? Or do you leave him to assist continuity at the Boro?

In reality, the FA team would be you and Graham Kelly, the chief executive. One of the questions you should ask the sub-committee is who will be your boss? No one has given urgency to deciding the succession to Sir Bert Millichip, the chairman who is apparently about to retire. Another question to put to the kingmakers is who will be the director of coaching? Your opposition to the long-ball methods espoused by Charles Hughes, the man *in situ*, has been well documented. You cannot, thank goodness, have any truck with an outmoded style of play that has dragged England down to its lamentable position.

Supposing a new chairman and a compatible director of coaching are found, then presumably, from your strong position, you would be entitled to ask for a salary double the £150,000 Venables receives, commensurate with the three-year contract you signed with Middlesbrough 18 months ago.

Next, of course, you will seek to protect your family location. Your wife, two daughters and son, are established in Cheshire, something Middlesbrough took into account when they offered you rides from Cheshire to Teesside aboard the ICI company jet. Many people in football would subscribe to the view that an England coach resident in the North would be no bad thing. Maybe, in time, we will play international matches there.

Go to Lancaster Gate, if you must. Go with the tremendous goodwill of millions, mine included. It is the ultimate calling in the English game, although one bedevilled by all manner of difficulties. However, if you allow them to accelerate your career beyond your instincts and expectations, then at least go forewarned and forearmed. Yours,

Rob Hughes

PS: If you have the strength to turn the offer down, please pass these thoughts to Kevin, Gerry or Glenn. On second thoughts, as Chelsea entertain Middlesbrough tomorrow, you and Hoddle can exchange views on the England "situation". Oh to be a fly on that wall.

CARL RUTHERFORD

Will Robson choose to cast his gaze further afield than his surroundings at Middlesbrough?

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL v COVENTRY

All is not well at Arsenal. Only two wins in ten Premiership matches, out of the FA Cup, David Platt injured again and Bruce Rioch steadfastly refusing to sign his contract. With Tony Adams, Highbury's rock of ages, limping around on crutches after an "innocuous-looking" tackle in training, matters appear to be getting worse. Still, Coventry visit today with only two victories in ten trips to Highbury and with the worst defensive record in the Premiership. If Arsenal lose, Rioch had better sign up pronto.

LAST SEASON: Arsenal 2 Coventry 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 0-0, 1-1, 2-0, 2-0, 5-1, 1-2, 3-0, 0-3, 2-1.

How they line up

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, S Marshall, A Linighan, N Winterburn, P Merson, J Jensen, A Clarke, G Helder, D Bergkamp, I Wright, S Morrow, P Dickov, M Rose.
COVENTRY (from): S Ogrizovic, A Pickering, B Borrows, D Busst, R Shaw, M Hall, P Telfer, K Richardson, J Salako, P Ndlovu, D Dublin, N Whelan, W Boland, G Strachan, J Filan.

ASTON VILLA v LEEDS

Villa's title pretensions were exposed by Liverpool on Wednesday, the Fowler-Collymore combo again doing the damage. Leeds' frailties have been exposed for some time, with Howard Wilkinson approaching his wit's end as to how to make his side more consistent. His headaches are unlikely to disappear this afternoon. He is without Kelly, Wetherall, Beesley, Ford and Chapman, because of suspension, and Yeboah, Masinga and Radebe, his African Nations Cup legion. Anybody want a game?

LAST SEASON: Aston Villa 0 Leeds 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, 0-0, 1-4, 1-1, 1-0, 0-0.

How they line up

ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, G Charles, A Wright, S Staunton, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, P McGrath, M Draper, A Townsend, T Johnson, S Milosevic, D Yorke, I Taylor, R Scimeca, M Oakes.
LEEDS (from): M Beeney, A Couzens, J Pemberton, C Palmer, R Jobson, A Dorigo, A Gray, T Brolin, G McAllister, G Speed, B Deane, R Wallace, R Bowman, N Worthington, M Tinkler, I Harte, J Lukic.

BLACKBURN v BOLTON

David Batty has been left out of Blackburn's squad but Ray Harford insists there is no quarrel. "My relationship with David is a manager-player relationship; some are good and some aren't so good," Harford said. No prizes for guessing which one he meant. Considering Rovers are without Le Saux, Pearce, Wilcox, Sutton and Fenton, and Batty still cannot get in the side, perhaps he should help to perpetuate the rumours linking him with Newcastle. Bolton will do well to take any crumb of comfort from fortress Ewood Park.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: No fixtures.

How they line up

BLACKBURN (from): T Flowers, C Coleman, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, S Ripley, K Gallacher, A Shearer, M Newell, H Berg, L Bohinen, W McKinlay, N Gudmundsson, R Mimms, M Holmes, P Warhurst.
BOLTON (from): K Branagan, S Green, J Phillips, S Curcic, C Fairclough, G Bergsson, A Stubbs, D Lee, R Sneekes, M Paatelainen, J McGinlay, A Thompson, S Sellars, N Blake, F de Freitas, S McAnespie.

LIVERPOOL v TOTTENHAM

Liverpool's surge knows no limits. Unbeaten in nine Premiership outings, Roy Evans is again named manager of the month, and Fowler and Collymore are voted joint players of the month. Tottenham will do well to survive the terrors of Anfield, though a more significant moment could be happening back at White Hart Lane. Darren Anderton returns from long-term pelvic injury, against the super-stiffs of Luton Town, with much depending on how he gets on in the titanic Avon Insurance Combination tussle.

LAST SEASON: Liverpool 1 Tottenham 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 4-1, 0-1, 1-0, 1-1, 1-0, 2-0, 2-1, 6-2, 1-2, 1-1.

How they line up

LIVERPOOL (probable): D James, J McAteer, R Jones, J Scales, M Wright, P Babb, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas, R Fowler, S Collymore. Subs (from): A Warner, M Kennedy, I Rush, S Harkness.
TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, D Austin, J Edinburgh, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson, S Campbell, D Caskey, R Fox, A Sinton, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, S Nethercott, J Dozzell, R Rosenthal, C Day.

MANCHESTER CITY v QPR

Poor old Ray Wilkins. With the desperate Rangers fans only just getting used to Challis, Brazier and Quashie, what does he do? He goes and brings in Plummer and Mahoney-Johnson — another couple of youngsters — to try to turn around Rangers' fortunes. If the big boys can't do it, what chance have they got? Alan Ball has unearthed another local talent, Frontzeck, to go with the other Mancunian lads he has in the side — Immel, Kinkladze and Rösler. Must have once been a great City youth side.

LAST SEASON: Manchester City 2 QPR 3.
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 0-0, —, —, 1-0, 2-1, 2-2, 1-1, 3-0, 2-3.

How they line up

MAN CITY (from): E Immel, N Summerbee, K Curle, K Symons, M Frontzeck, S Lomas, G Kinkladze, G Flitcroft, N Clough, N Quinn, U Rösler, M Phillips, I Brightwell, M Brown, M Margetson.
QPR (from): J Sommer, D Maddix, A McDonald, S Yates, T Challis, A Impey, I Holloway, N Quashie, T Sinclair, B Allen, M Hateley, K Gallen, S Barker, M Brazier, R Wilkins, C Plummer, M Mahoney-Johnson.

NEWCASTLE v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Not content with leading the Premiership pack by nine points, Kevin Keegan wants to strengthen his squad yet further. Nothing wrong in that, especially when bankrolled by Sir John Hall and his merry millions. Why, though, should he pick a Colombian who, allegedly, has had a more-than-passing link with matters of a sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll nature? And for £30,000 a week? Is it not strange, too, that Keegan is interested in David Batty, he of Russian fisticuffs fame? A case of more money than sense, perhaps.

LAST SEASON: Newcastle 2 Sheffield Wed 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 4-1, 2-3, 2-2, 1-3, —, 1-0, —, —, 4-2, 2-1.

How they line up

NEWCASTLE (probable): P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, S Howey, P Albert, R Lee, L Clark, S Watson, P Beardsley, P Kitson, L Ferdinand. Substitutes (from): D Huckerby, P Brayson, R Elliott, S Hislop.
SHEFF WED (from): K Pressman, I Nolan, D Stefanovic, P Atherton, S Nicol, I Walker, J Watts, G Hyde, M Degryse, G Whittingham, C Waddle, M Bright, R Humphreys, M Platts, D Hirst, D Kovacevic, J Sheridan.

SOUTHAMPTON v EVERTON

Everton are not normally associated with barnstorming runs but a record of only two defeats in 13 league matches, and four wins from their past five, is as good as most. Now that Ferguson has had his suspension lifted — what a triumph for Scottish justice — Joe Royle and his boys can take the Premiership by storm. Defensively, though, they might have a problems at The Dell, with Unsworth, Ebbrell and Hottiger unavailable. Southampton carry on just about getting by, with this season no different. Yawn, snooze, etc.

LAST SEASON: Southampton 2 Everton 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 0-2, 0-4, 1-1, 2-2, 3-4, 1-2, 0-0, 0-2, 2-0.

How they line up

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, F Benali, R Hall, K Monkou, J Magilton, M Le Tissier, B Venison, N Shipperley, G Watson, M Walters, N Maddison, M Oakley, B Grobbelaar.
EVERTON (from): N Southall, D Watson, A Hinchcliffe, M Jackson, B Horne, A Limpar, A Kanchelskis, C Short, J Parkinson, D Ferguson, D Amokachi, G Allen, P Rideout, G Stuart, J Kearton.

WEST HAM v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Dani — 19, Portuguese, extremely talented and exceedingly handsome — should set the pulses racing, male and female, at Upton Park this afternoon. He met his new team-mates on Wednesday, for the first time, and caused an immediate stir. "The lads said they're not going to be bringing their wives in," Harry Redknapp said. Strange that the lads never said that when Iain Dowie arrived. Forest are again without Stone and Pearce, because of injury, so Phillips and Silenzi should keep their places.

LAST SEASON: West Ham 3 Nottingham Forest 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 4-2, 1-2, 3-2, 3-3, —, —, 3-0, —, —, 3-1.

How they line up

WEST HAM (from): L Miklosko, S Potts, K Brown, M Rieper, J Dicks, D Williamson, I Bishop, A Cottee, M Hughes, I Dowie, R Slater, C Whyte, Dani, A Whitbread, S Lazaridis, P Shilton, L Sealey, D Gordon.
NOTTM FOREST (from): M Crossley, A Fettis, D Lyttle, D Phillips, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Gemmill, C Bart-Williams, I Woan, A Silenzi, K Campbell, B Roy, A I Haaland, S Howe, J Lee, S Blatherwick.

WIMBLEDON v MANCHESTER UNITED

Good old Honest Joe Kinnear. He turned down the job of manager of Ireland only a few days before, probably, Ireland turned him down. Stuart ... Joe, anyway, the Premiership would not be ... without you ... [illegible] eyes, though, will be on Eric Cantona [illegible] Park since a Crystal Palace supporter [illegible] early bath for you." Wimbledon are [illegible] suspension and also Jones, who [illegible]

LAST SEASON: Wimbledon [illegible]
10-YEAR RECORD: [illegible]

How they line up

WIMBLEDON (from): [illegible] Reeves, G [illegible] Ardley, J [illegible]
MAN UTD (from): [illegible] R Giggs, R Keane [illegible] McClair, P Parker [illegible]

CHELSEA v MIDDLESBROUGH

Chelsea's increasingly impressive progress — only one defeat in 14 matches — may suffer a temporary hiccup tomorrow, with Duberry, Wise and Hughes absent because of suspension. However, they have shown they are as capable of defending as they are of attacking, as witnessed late on in the FA Cup tie at Loftus Road on Monday. Middlesbrough are without Juninho, have lost five successive league matches and Bryan Robson could be off to manage England. Apart from that, they are in good shape.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, —, 4-0, —, —.

How they line up

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, D Kharine, T Phelan, D Petrescu, S Clarke, D Lee, E Johnsen, E Newton, R Gullit, J Spencer, G Peacock, P Furlong, N Spackman.
MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Cox, C Liddle, N Pearson, S Vickers, C Morris, D Whyte, A Whyte, M Barron, C Blackmore, K O'Halloran, N Barmby, J Moreno, C Hignett, P Wilkinson, J A Fjortoft.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	23	54	+26	WLWWW
2 Liverpool	24	45	+27	DWDWW
3 Manchester Utd	24	45	+15	WWLDW
4 Tottenham	24	41	+9	DLWWL
5 Nottm Forest	24	40	+2	WLWLW
6 Aston Villa	23	39	+11	LWDWL
7 Blackburn	24	38	+11	WWDWW
8 Arsenal	24	37	+8	WLLWL
9 Everton	24	36	+9	WLWDW
10 Chelsea	24	36	0	LDWDW
11 Leeds	24	35	-1	LDWLL
12 Middlesbrough	24	33	0	LLLLL
13 Sheffield Wed	23	26	-3	DLWDL
14 West Ham	23	26	-10	LLLLW
15 Southampton	24	24	-11	DDLWD
16 Wimbledon	24	24	-13	WWLLW
17 Manchester City	24	21	-20	LWLDD
18 Coventry	24	20	-17	WDLDL
19 QPR	24	18	-18	LLLLL
20 Bolton	24	13	-23	LLLWL

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

12 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday: Chelsea v Middlesbrough (live)

Compiled by Russell Kempson, Julian Desborough

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Talented Flat recruit can expose flaws in Agfa Hurdle opposition

Right Win to strengthen title claim

By Julian Muscat

SO BEREFT of depth is the byzantine Champion Hurdle picture that the following have been brought together under the guise of a Festival trial: a German unknown, an equine veteran, a perennial big-race bridesmaid and, last but not least, in this designated test of speed, a French steeplechaser frantically trying to qualify for the Grand National. They are opposed — subject to Sandown passing a 7.30am inspection — by a group one winner from the Flat.

The Agfa Hurdle should really be no contest, although seasoned watchers of the winter game will be too wise to rush out and back Right Win with serious money. The effect that eight flights of hurdles can have on a proven galloper never ceases to amaze.

Indeed, had Right Win displayed a shade more consistency on the Flat, he would now be looking over the frosty landscape from the comforts of a stallion box. He may yet earn that status, but the six-year-old entire must first scramble over a series of wooden obstacles which, if he measures them inaccurately, might have painful repercussions.

That seems unlikely if his jumping debut is any guide. Perhaps, mindful of the hidden pitfalls, Right Win cleared his hurdles with room to spare, in the process demolishing a field of talented novices. Having initially loitered along at the back of the field, his superior speed was quickly evident. The prize was his in a matter of strides.

Richard Dunwoody, who takes over on Atours, will be mindful of this. Atours is usually held off the pace, often exaggeratedly so, but it would be foolish to allow Right Win such rope. So impressive in dismissing inferior opponents, Atours has never quite convinced against his peers. He may be bequeathed the runner-up berth for the fourth consecutive time.

Land Afar was well held by Mole Board until the 14-year-old, all wrong at the final flight, fired Tom Grantham out of the saddle 12 months ago. It would be hugely embarrassing for his opponents were Mole Board to prevail on ground much faster than he likes.

The going is also a problem for his stablemate, Killone Abbot, who ploughed through a quagmire at Newbury for an emphatic victory in November. He is talented, but his future surely lies over fences.

Of the remainder, Moorish is out of sorts, Telasco is out of his depth and As Des Carres will be out of his mind. This staying French chaser faces extreme disorientation after racing over the minimum trip. But his connections today strive for a distinction totally alien to British owners. They are hoping As Des Carres earns the handicapper's wrath: only then will the eight-year-old be assured a berth in the Grand National, the weights for which are announced on Tuesday.

The British Horseracing Board acted yesterday to make good a host of valuable opportunities recently lost to the weather. The Marstons Pedigree Novices' Hurdle, run at Uttoxeter a week today, is to have its added value boosted to £18,000 to compensate for the abandonment of the Prestige Novices' Hurdle at Chepstow. And further races at Wincanton and Newbury will have their values increased if the card at Sandown today succumbs to the elements.

In that event, spare a thought for the lot of the British racehorse owner. He is, by definition, not short of a few bob. But no one, however affluent, has found the antedote to being stuck in a taxi in traffic. Like racehorse ownership in the present climate, it is a frustrating waste of time and money.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HIGH BARON
(1.50 Sandown Park)
Next best: Treasure Again
(4.10 Sandown Park)

ED BYRNE

Trainglot, with Jamie Osborne aboard, attempts to repeat his 1993 victory in the Tote Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle at Sandown today

Monsieur Le Cure can benefit from Jodami's absence

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

JODAMI'S attempt for a fourth successive Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup victory was ruined when the Peter Beaumont-trained chaser was found to be coughing yesterday, but Monsieur Le Cure can continue the British stranglehold on tomorrow's big chase at Leopardstown.

Carvills Hill, in 1989, is the only Irish-trained horse to have won the Hennessy since it was first run in 1987 and, despite a number of other options, trainer John Edwards has selected the Hennesy as Monsieur Le Cure's prep-race for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Edwards said yesterday: "The ground and the prize-money are attractive and Sunday's race is a nice stepping stone with Cheltenham five weeks away. He won't run again before Cheltenham, but he seems very well."

The ground at Leopardstown is described as yielding and no inspection is planned. A spokesman said yesterday that the course is expected to avoid the worst of any overnight frost.

Kim Bailey expressed himself unworried about the ground drying up for Master Oats and added that last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner is in good form for his Irish raid.

Master Oats recovered well from a jumping mistake to finish third to One Man in the King George and without that mistake could have challenged Monsieur Le Cure for second place. However, his best form has been on much softer ground.

Richard Dunwoody had the choice of the two main Irish hopes, Flashing Steel and Imperial Call, and has plumped for the former. Now an 11-year-old, Flashing Steel has won his only race this season and will appreciate the going, but he has been found out previously in the highest company and is unlikely to have improved.

In contrast, Imperial Call is only seven and his defeat of the Champion Chase contender Strong Platinum over an inadequate trip last time proved he is improving rapidly.

Conor O'Dwyer rides him for the first time tomorrow and he said: "I rode Strong Platinum against him and I was very impressed. He is crying out for a trip and the best is yet to be seen of him. But it can't be too soft for him and the ground may dry up too much."

That will not be a worry to Monsieur Le Cure, who can take the Hennessy en route to another rematch with One Man at Cheltenham.

TOMORROW'S BIG RACE LINE-UP

GOING: YIELDING

3.45 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP (£48,750: 3m) (9 runners)

1	49-7222	FISSURE SEAL (Delton Syndicate) H de Bromhead 10-12-0	J Short	51
2	331F1-1	FLASHING STEEL (C Haughey) J E Mulhern 11-12-0	R Dunwoody	88
3	113-1F1	IMPERIAL CALL (Lisselan Farms Ltd) F Sutherland 7-12-0	C O'Dwyer	83
4	76-1111	LIFE OF A LORD (M Clancy) A P O'Brien 10-12-0	C F Swan	71
5	1117-P3	MASTER OATS (P Matthews) K Bailey (GB) 10-12-0	J Osborne	[illegible]
6	163-622	MONSIEUR LE CURE (H Brown) J Edwards (GB) 10-12-0	J F Titley	84
7	8554P0	NUAFFE (J G Doyle) P A Fahy 11-12-0	S H O'Donovan	66
8	141-45U	SON OF WAR (Mrs V O'Brien) P McCreery 9-12-0	F Woods	65
9	1912FP	LOSHIAN (Mrs A Foxe) A P O'Brien 7-11-9	T Horgan	50

BETTING: 6-4 Master Oats, 7-2 Monsieur Le Cure, 4-1 Imperial Call, 5-1 Life Of A Lord, 16-1 Son Of War, 20-1 Fissure Seal, 25-1 others.

1995: JODAMI 12-0 M Dwyer (13-8 fav) P Beaumont (GB) 6 ran

Sandown hopes rise

PROSPECTS for the Agfa Diamond Chase meeting at Sandown Park today have improved, thanks to a rise in temperature. The clerk of the course, Andrew Cooper, said yesterday: "We didn't have too bad a frost overnight and the temperature has risen to around two degrees Celsius at the moment.

"It all depends on how things are tonight. There isn't a really bad frost forecast but we will have a precautionary inspection at 7.30am."

Hopes are high that today's meeting at Wetherby will go ahead but it was a different story at Chepstow which became the latest victim of the frost as the weather refused to release its grip on racing.

The clerk of the course, Rodger Farrant, was forced to abandon yesterday after an early afternoon inspection.

Yesterday's card at Folkestone became another casualty when a mid-morning deterioration in conditions caused an abandonment and Monday's meeting at Fontwell Park is the latest fixture to be put in jeopardy by the cold snap.

A course spokesman said yesterday: "There is frost in the ground and we will hold an inspection at 9.00am on Sunday.

Newton Abbot is "very hopeful" of racing on Monday, according to the clerk of the course, Pat Masterson, but the meeting at Warwick on Tuesday is dependent on a thaw as some parts of the track are still frozen.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, first race 2.00). Fontwell Park (1.40). Newton Abbot (2.20)
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.50). Carlisle (1.40). Warwick (1.30)
WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 2.10). Ascot (BBC, 1.30). Ludlow (1.45).
THURSDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.50). Huntingdon (2.00). Wincanton (1.40).
FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.10). Bangor (1.50). Newbury (1.30)
SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.05). Ayr (1.20). Catterick (1.45). Newbury (BBC, 1.10). Uttoxeter (C4, 1.35).

Flat meetings in bold

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2 miles 6 furlongs, Sandown 4.10pm. Live on CH4 TV.

3/1 Pharanear	20/1 Do Be Have
7/1 Trainglot	20/1 Hops And Pops
7/1 Treasure Again	20/1 Trickle Lad
8/1 Roberty Lea	22/1 Lucky Blue
8/1 Sparky Gayle	22/1 Outset
11/1 Grooving	25/1 Dark Honey
16/1 Feels Like Gold	28/1 Fuzzy Logic
16/1 Runaway Pete	28/1 Top Spin
18/1 Bell Staffboy	40/1 Taos

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SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER
1.20 PADDY'S RETURN (nap)
1.50 Martin's Lamp
2.25 Jibber The Kibber
3.00 Atours
3.35 Young Hustler
4.10 Trainglot
4.40 Whattabob

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 PHARANEAR.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES SIS
730AM INSPECTION

1.20 RIPLEY FOUR-YEAR-OLD NOVICES HURDLE
(£6,935: 2m 110yd) (16 runners)

1	31P222	OCEAN HAWK 15 (D,F,S) (Miss J Broadhurst) N Twiston-Davies 11-8	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
2	112	PADDY'S RETURN 49 (D,BF,F,G) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 11-8	R Dunwoody	88
3	111U	REVEILLON 13F (G,S) (B Raber) C Von Der Recke (Ger) 11-8	K Hvild	–
4	1	MISTINGUETT 21 (D,S) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 11-3	T Jenks	77
5	3	CLAIRESWAN 72 (Claire and Beryl) M Tompkins 11-0	D Gallagher	67
6	P	INDONESIAN 28 (B) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 11-0	G Bradley	–
7	0	MR CHRISTIE 27 (D Mann) Miss L Siddall 11-0	M Richards	–
8	0	NAUTICAL JEWEL 15 (Sporting Partners) M Usher 11-0	G McCourt	–
9	3	REAGANESQUE 28 (Mrs J Spielman) P Murphy 11-0	P Hide	88
10	P3	SAILEP 17 (P Slade) R Hodges 11-0	W McFarland	65
11	5	TILAAL 21 (M Dennis) M Hammond 11-0	P Niven	61
12	1P	GREENWAY LADY 66 (D,G) (Bradock Synd) Miss A Embiricos 10-13	J Ryan	60
13		BIG TREAT 143F (P Hiatt) P Hiatt 10-10	D Bridgwater	–
14		CULTURAL ICON 16F (Mrs P Mitchell) P Mitchell 10-10	J Osborne	–
15		TOMAL 23F (Tonty Partners) R Ingram 10-10	M A Fitzgerald	–
16		DEBUTANTE DAYS 115F (Mrs S Brasher) Miss H Knight 10-5	J F Titley	–

BETTING: 5-2 Paddy's Return, 5-1 Mistinguett, 6-1 Ocean Hawk, 8-1 Debutante Days, Claireswan, 10-1 Reaganesque, 12-1 others.

1995: AMANCIO 4-11-0 M Perrett (9-2) G Harwood 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

OCEAN HAWK on previous start 7l 2nd of 17 to Tibetan in novice hurdle over course and distance (good to soft) with REAGANESQUE (1lb better off) 15l 3rd. PADDY'S RETURN 3½l 2nd of 20 to Sovereigns Parade in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). REVEILLON beat Tikos 1½l in 14-runner hurdle at Enghien (2m 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. MISTINGUETT beat Shepherds Rest 6l in 17-runner novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft). CLAIRESWAN 6l 3rd of 15 to Prophets Honour in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). TILAAL 23l 5th of 25 to Dally Boy in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m good).
Selection: PADDY'S RETURN

1.50 GUILDFORD FLAMES HANDICAP CHASE (£6,873: 2m) (10 runners)

1	1223-22	MARTIN'S LAMP 21 (D,G,S) (F Welch) D Nicholson 9-12-0	A Maguire	[illegible]
2	1111P1-	SOUND REVEILLE 324 (CD,G,S) (Mrs G Abecassis) C Brooks 8-11-6	G Bradley	87
3	2P1223-	SPREE CROSS 343 (CD,G,S) (Exors of P Mason) Mrs D Haine 10-11-1	J F Titley	88
4	332-114	KIBREET 21 (D,F,G,S) (T Warner) P Hobbs 9-10-13	A P McCoy	94
5	112-U30	HIGH BARON 21 (D,F,G,S) (Miss C James) R Hodges 9-10-13	R Dunwoody	98
6	41F111	TIME WON'T WAIT 15 (D,F,G) (Old Berks Partners) R Phillips 7-10-7	J Railton	97
7	F11-P3F	KING CREDO 14 (CD,F,G,S) (J Bolam) S Woodman 11-10-6	D Gallagher	89
8	256/211-	KONVEKTA KING 413 (D,F,G,S) (Konvekta Ltd) O Sherwood 8-10-5	J Osborne	87
9	20-3013	MR FELIX 51 (D,F,G,S) (F Rosenfield's Widow & Son) J Gifford 10-10-0	L Aspell (5)	76
10	3512-UF	YOUNG ALFIE 49 (B,D,F,S) (J Panvert) J Panvert 11-10-0	G Hogan (3)	80

Long handicap: Mr Felix 9-3, Young Alfie 7-9.

BETTING: 3-1 Martin's Lamp, 7-2 Time Won't Wait, 4-1 Sound Reveille, 5-1 Kibreet, 7-1 Konvekta King, 8-1 High Baron, 10-1 King Credo, 12-1 others.

1995: UNCLE ERNIE 10-11-10 J Osborne (5-2) J Fitzgerald 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

MARTIN'S LAMP 1½l 2nd of 11 to Big Matt in Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot (2m, good to soft). SOUND REVEILLE beat Autumn Cache 1¼l in 8-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft). KIBREET beat Gales Cavalier 5l in 4-runner handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good). HIGH BARON 2½l 3rd of 5 to Easthorpe in handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start. TIME WON'T WAIT completed treble, beat Fenceman 4l in 8-runner handicap chase at Kempton (2m, good).
Selection: MARTIN'S LAMP

2.25 SCILLY ISLES NOVICES CHASE C4
(Grade I: £21,556: 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	0-23F4	CAMPECHE BAY 52 (J Kinnear) G Balding 7-11-6	A P McCoy	66
2	1P06-F8	GIVUS A CALL 14 (S) (T Benfield) J Gifford 8-11-6	Mr P O'Keefe	–
3	10-1PF1	JIBBER THE KIBBER 21 (D,S) (J Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-6	R Farrant	[illegible]
4	2601F0	NEMURO 21 (F,G) (Turf City Racing) D Elsworth 9-11-6	P Holley	87
5	6-82121	NO PAIN NO GAIN 17 (G,S) (Marvellous Partners) J Gifford 8-11-6	P Hide	95
6	300-61P	SENOR EL BETRUTTI 23 (G,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 7-11-6	G Bradley	88
7	44/P-1U5	TOTHEWOODS 22 (G,S) (M Scott) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-6	C Llewellyn	64

BETTING: 5-4 Jibber The Kibber, 3-1 No Pain No Gain, 6-1 Nemuro, 8-1 Tothewoods, 10-1 Senor El Betrutti, 12-1 Givus A Call, 14-1 Campeche Bay

1995: BANJO 5-10-10 A Maguire (11-4) M Pipe 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CAMPECHE BAY 11l 3rd of 6 to Wisley Wonder in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). JIBBER THE KIBBER beat Air Shot 3l in 16-runner novice chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). NEMURO best effort this term beat Trying Again 5l in 13-runner novice chase at Exeter (2m 3f, good). NO PAIN NO GAIN beat Dom Samourai 1¾l in 18-runner novice chase at Windsor (2m 5f, soft). Previously neck 2nd of 10 to Air Shot in novice chase at Lingfield (2m, soft). SENOR EL BETRUTTI beat Challenger Du Luc 6l in 8-runner novice Chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: JIBBER THE KIBBER (nap)

3.00 AGFA HURDLE C4
(£10,260: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1	0-11222	ATOURS 14 (D,F,G,S) (Oh So Rosie Partners) D Elsworth 8-11-8	R Dunwoody	96
2	2/3541F-	LAND AFAR 326 (CD,G,S) (T Ford) P Webber 9-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	89
3	1	RIGHT WIN 28 (CD,S) (C Kavanagh) R Hannon 6-11-5	G McCourt	71
4	1011-15	KILLONE ABBOT 22 (CD,BF,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Old 7-11-4	J Osborne	70
5	12	TELASCO 74 (S) (Mrs A Seibert) C Von Der Recke (Ger) 6-11-2	K Hvild	–
6	664165	AS DES CARRES 21 (G,S) (C Cohen) J Gifford 9-10-9	L Manceau	50
7	2/30U0-4	MOLE BOARD 28 (CD,F,G,S) (W Stuart) J Old 14-10-9	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
8	26/P24-6	MOORISH 14 (D,S) (A Fitzpatrick) J White 6-10-9	D Gallagher	94

BETTING: 7-4 Atours, 2-1 Right Win, 4-1 Killone Abbot, 8-1 Land Afar, Mole Board, 20-1 Moorish, 25-1 others.

1995: LAND AFAR 8-11-4 G McCourt (3-1) J Webber 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

ATOURS 1¾l 2nd of 8 to Mysilv in grade II Champion Hurdle Trial at Haydock (2m, soft). RIGHT WIN beat Strong Promise 5l in 9-runner grade I Tolworth Hurdle over course and distance (good to soft). KILLONE ABBOT beat Mouse Bird 20l in 7-runner grade II Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. TELASCO 4l 2nd of 20 to Montvale in hurdle at Enghien (2m 3f, soft).
Selection: ATOURS

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

3.35 AGFA DIAMOND CHASE C4
(Limited handicap: Grade II: £18,840. 3m 110yd) (4 runners)

1	U2-21U5	YOUNG HUSTLER 28 (C,D,F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 9-12-0	C Maude	91
2	11112-1	PERCY SMOLLETT 22 (D,F,G,S) (R Murray) D Nicholson 8-10-10	A Maguire	[illegible]
3	380-25U	AMTRAK EXPRESS 28 (F,G,S) (Amtrak Express) N Henderson 9-10-7	M A Fitzgerald	91
4	156-1U4	YORKSHIRE GALE 15 (CD,G,S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 10-10-7	A P McCoy	79

Long handicap: Yorkshire Gale 9-9

BETTING: 5-4 Percy Smollett, 7-4 Young Hustler, 11-2 Amtrak Express, 6-1 Yorkshire Gale

1995: DEEP BRAMBLE 8-11-10 C Maude (6-1) P Nicholls 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

YOUNG HUSTLER 25l 5th of 11 to One Man in grade I Tripleprint King George VI Chase over course and distance (good to soft). Earlier beat Sir Peter Lely 6l in 10-runner handicap chase at Aintree (3m 3f, good to firm). PERCY SMOLLETT beat Unguided Missile 6l in 9-runner handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to soft). AMTRAK EXPRESS 16½l 5th of 12 to Dublin Flyer in Mackeson Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. YORKSHIRE GALE best effort this season beat Edimbourg 2½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good)
Selection: PERCY SMOLLETT

4.10 TOTE BOOKMAKERS SANDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE C4
(Grade III: £27,070: 2m 6f) (18 runners)

1	6P-4305	TOP SPIN 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 7-12-0	J Railton	85
2	25/1P2P	DARK HONEY 21 (CD,G,S) (R Sayer) S Dow 11-11-10	R Dunwoody	–
3	400-536	TRICKLE LAD 22 (F,G,S) (Mrs H Prendergast) F Murphy 7-11-9	A P McCoy	86
4	413111	PHARANEAR 21 (F,G,S) (Stainless Fasteners) D Nicholson 6-11-8	A Maguire	[illegible]
5	112P-51	TREASURE AGAIN 22 (S) (J Gaynor) Mrs M Jones 7-11-8	G Bradley	94
6	1105-10	HOPS AND POPS 21 (F,G,S) (Happy Band) R Alner 9-11-7	Mr P Henley (5)	88
7	1384-44	ROBERTY LEA 28 (CD,G,S) (Wensleydale Const Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-5	P Niven	86
8	03-F103	BELL STAFFBOY 21 (F,G) (N Bell & Son) C Broad 7-11-5	R Farrant	89
9	111P-1	TRAINGLOT 21 (CD,G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J Fitzgerald 9-11-1	J Osborne	91
10	2021-P0	TAOS 14 (C,F,S) (B Kelly) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-1	C Maude	89
11	106-244	FUZZY LOGIC 21 (G,S) (Cheltenham Racing) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-0	C Llewellyn	81
12	P/12P0-6	DO BE HAVE 21 (D,G) (Peters and Lea) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-13	R Farrant	81
13	1001-13	SPARKY GAYLE 56 (BF,F,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 6-10-10	B Storey	85
14	4-43138	LUCKY BLUE 14 (G,S) (F Newman) N Thomson 9-10-10	M A Fitzgerald	93
15	111120	RUNAWAY PETE 52 (F,G) (Pertan Assocs) M Pipe 6-10-6	D Bridgwater	90
16	P421-F0	FEELS LIKE GOLD 22 (D,BF,S) (Independent Twine) M Pipe 8-10-6	P Holley	85
17	11-14	GROOVING 14 (G,S) (Mrs T Brown) J Gifford 7-10-5	P Hide	88
18	131F-P3	OUTSET 21 (D,G) (M Kilner) M Hammond 6-10-0	Mr C Bonner (3)	86

Long handicap: Outset 9-12

BETTING: 7-2 Pharanear, 4-1 Trainglot, 8-1 Trickle Lad, Treasure Again, Sparky Gayle, 10-1 Roberty Lea, 12-1 others

1995: MIRACLE MAN 7-10-0 Peter Hobbs (3-1 fav) C Weedon 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

DARK HONEY won this race two years ago. 2l 2nd of 13 to Major Summit in novice chase here (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. PHARANEAR completed treble, beat Angelo's Double 20l in 18-runner handicap hurdle at Warwick (3m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with BELL STAFFBOY (8lb better off) 6l 3rd, FUZZY LOGIC (9lb better off) 7l 4th, DO BE HAVE (9lb better off) 3½l 6th and HOPS AND POPS (10lb better off) 8l 11th. TREASURE AGAIN beat Jathib ¾l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, good to soft) with LUCKY BLUE (5lb better off) 9l 3rd, TRICKLE LAD (5lb better off) 21l 6th, FEELS LIKE GOLD (8lb better off) 14l 7th. ROBERTY LEA about 4¾l 4th of 6 to Redeemyourself in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. TRAINGLOT beat Native Field short-head in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m 4f, good) with OUTSET short-head 3rd.
SPARKY GAYLE head and 1½l 3rd in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good). GROOVING 9¾l 4th of 12 to Warm Spell in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good).
Selection: TREASURE AGAIN

4.40 FEBRUARY MAIDEN HURDLE (£3,173: 2m 6f) (22 runners)

1		BATTLE LORD CISTO (M Watson) R Buckler 8-11-7	S McNeill	–
2	34244F-	BONNIFER 245 (Towcester Members) M Wilkinson 7-11-7	P Crowley (7)	75
3	225-2FU	FATHER POWER 79 (P Bowling) P Hobbs 8-11-7	G Tormey (3)	80
4	52	FINE STALKER 17 (D Caro) D Caro 8-11-7	D Gallagher	76
5	3/	FRESHMANS ESSAY 611 (G) (Mrs P Aldersey) P Webber 8-11-7	G McCourt	–
6	624	GLITTER ISLE 14 (Mrs T Pilkington) J Gifford 6-11-7	P Hide	84
7	0/0	HEATON 17 (G Rowsell) H Rowsell 9-11-7	A Tory	–
8	P2	LITTLE CHINK 17 (Mrs E Boucher) D Grissell 6-11-7	B Fenton (5)	77
9	1U2-2	LORD MCMURROUGH 12 (S) (J Neville) J Neville 6-11-7	R Dunwoody	–
10	02333/4	MR JERVIS 57 (F Rosenfield's Widow & Son) J Gifford 7-11-7	L Aspell (5)	85
11	30-6503	NAHRAWALI 10 (C Sparrowhawk) A Moore 5-11-7	P Holley	75
12	636	PHAR FROM FUNNY 23 (Mrs E Haycock) G Balding 5-11-7	B Clifford	58
13	40-0	POLITICAL PANTO 64 (S Lucey) M Pipe 5-11-7	D Bridgwater	–
14	300442-	PRINCE NASHA 296 (S Pedersen) V Cunningham-Brown 6-11-7	R Davis	58
15	30-0	THE NED 75 (B) (M Perkins) B Smart 5-11-7	C Llewellyn	–
16	3/02/2	THE REVEREND BERT 21 (M Ker-Dineen) G Balding 8-11-7	A P McCoy	80
17	F	TWO GOOD JUDGES 73 (Mrs J Bishop) S Sherwood 6-11-7	G Bradley	–
18	242-2P	WELL ARRANGED 14 (Mrs Anne-Marie Hamilton) R Akehurst 5-11-7	A Maguire	87
19	31/52-22	WHATTABOB 22 (BF,S) (Mrs M Turner) N Henderson 7-11-7	M A Fitzgerald	[illegible]
20	62-220	YAHMI 22 (W Stuart) J Old 6-11-7	J Osborne	86
21	50	YOUNG LUCKY 17 (Young Lucky Partners) J Akehurst 5-11-7	J Leech	–
22	3-0	MIRADOR 17 (Mrs J Whitehead) R Curtis 5-11-2	D Morris	55

BETTING: 3-1 Yahmi, 7-2 Whattabob, 6-1 Well Arranged, 8-1 The Reverend Bert, 10-1 Mr Jervis, 12-1 Glitter Isle, 14-1 Bonnifer, Lord McMurrough, 16-1 others

1995: NATIVE ALLIANCE 6-11-7 J Lower (6-1) M Pipe 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

FINE STALKER 1l 2nd of 15 to Mystic Isle in maiden hurdle at Windsor (3m 6f 110yd, soft). GLITTER ISLE 1¾l 3rd of 15 to Oban in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft) on penultimate start. LORD MCMURROUGH 2½l 2nd of 15 to Sutherland Moss in National Hunt Flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy). NAHRAWALI 22l 3rd of 19 to Mirosvaki in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). THE REVEREND BERT 1l 2nd of 25 to Sparkling Yasmin in maiden hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). WELL ARRANGED 8l 2nd of 10 to Strong Promise in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. WHATTABOB 1¾l 2nd of 20 to Act Of Faith in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to soft). YAHMI neck 2nd of 12 to Tennessee Twist in novice hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good)
Selection: WHATTABOB

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	29	81	35.8	R Dunwoody	33	113	29.2
J Fitzgerald	5	14	35.7	J Titley	3	13	23.1
Mrs M Reveley	6	22	27.3	G McCourt	7	34	20.6
S Woodman	3	11	27.3	A Maguire	20	98	20.4
J Old	7	28	25.0	A P McCoy	6	32	18.8
Mrs H Knight	5	24	20.8	M Dwyer	3	17	17.6

Trainglot to stage repeat success

SANDOWN PARK
CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.25: This handsome prize has failed to attract a top quality field, but connections of **Jibber The Kibber** will not mind. After a false start, when he suffered a soft fall on his chasing debut, Jibber The Kibber returned to Warwick and quickened away from another promising sort in Air Shot. These are tougher obstacles, but the seven-year-old, a bold jumper, should take them in his stride. He has always appealed as the type to excel over fences.

A line through Air Shot suggests No Pain No Gain will trouble the selection. However, Josh Gifford's recruit was far from comfortable when landing the odds at Windsor last time. He cannot match the scope of Jenny Pitman's exciting prospect. Senor El Betrutti, disappointing on his last start, has place claims on his Ascot win.

3.00: See above.

3.35: It is never easy to scent when Yorkshire Gale is on song. The ten-year-old thrives in small fields and could spring a surprise, even from 12lb out of the handicap. Percy Smollett will be all the rage after his fluent Ascot victory. He appears well treated but the eight-year-old, at his best in testing conditions, is worth opposing on the forecast good ground.

Young Hustler has his favoured surface but is arguably better racing left-handed. That leaves **Amtrak Express**, who is perfectly weighted with 10st 7lb. Nicky Henderson's horse should find three miles within his compass and can spring a mild surprise.

4.10: Pharanear comes here with his confidence soaring after three recent victories. The handicapper has been fair on his 20-length romp at Warwick, raising the novice by 9lb. David Nicholson's horse should again account for Bell Staffboy, Fuzzy Logic and Hops And Pops on these terms. Whether he can cope with **Trainglot** is another matter.

Jimmy Fitzgerald's horse defied a three-year absence to prevail from his stable companion, Native Field, at Newcastle and should improve for the run. He was strongly fancied for the 1993 Sun Alliance Hurdle, having won this race en route, and makes considerable appeal in receipt of 7lb from Pharanear. On his preferred surface, Trainglot could well be a blot on the handicap.

Sparky Gayle, an improving sort, should run well but would prefer easier ground. A similar comment applies to Treasure Again, a game winner for Merrita Jones at Ascot, where the gambled-on Feels Like Gold was most disappointing. Roberty Lea, who landed a grade two novice hurdle last season over this course and distance, is another with good credentials in a wide-open contest.

Julian Muscat

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Southwell

Going: standard

2.00 (6f) 1, SEEKING DESTINY (D R McCabe, 100-30 fav). 2, Bit Of Bother (G Carter, 7-2). 3, Kind Of Light (F Lynch, 5-1) ALSO RAN 9-2 Chiliborg Bang (5th), 5 Foreman (4th), 6 Miss Carottene, 16 Chillam (6th). 7 ran. ¾l, hd, 2½l, 2½l, ½l. M Chapman at Market Rasen. Tote: £4.40; £2.10, £3.50 DF £18.60. CSF: £14.91.

2.30 (7f) 1, MILOS (T Ashley, 2-5 fav). 2, Northern Grey (Joanne Webster, 10-1); 3, Komlucky (G Faulkner, 14-1). ALSO RAN 11-2 Araboybill (4th), 10 Legatee (5th), 50 Desert Man (6th). 6 ran. 3½l, 3l, 1½l, 6l, 4l. T Naughton at Epsom. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £5.20. DF: £5.00. CSF £5.20.

3.00 (1m 4f) 1, MR MORIARTY (N Carlisle, 9-2); 2, Modest Hope (C Teague, 12-1); 3, Exclusion (J Quinn, 25-1) ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Ashover (4th), 7-2 Non Vintage, 7 Adaloaldo, 12 New Inn, 14 Just Flamenco, Turgenev, 16 Bold Pursuit (6th), 25 Noble Canonire (5th). 11 ran. 2½l, 2l, ¾l, 3½l, 7l. S Bowring at Mansfield. Tote: £4.50; £1.40, £2.40, £8.50 DF £13.40. Trio £92.60. CSF: £56.90. Tricast £1,137.12.

3.30 (1m 3f) 1, BALIOS (J Weaver, 7-2); 2, Oversman (J Fortune, 3-1); 3, Replay (L Dettori, 8-11 fav). ALSO RAN: 33 Skipman (6th), 100 Drasafina (4th), Kal's Lady (5th) 6 ran. NR: Mullholande Lad. Hd, 2l, 25l, 30l, 5l. M Johnston at Middleham. Tote £3.50; £1.90, £1.20 DF: £4.50. CSF £13.14.

4.00 (1m 3f) 1, NO SUBMISSION (A Culhane, 8-1); 2, Klemetim (D Griffiths, 14-1); 3, Night Time (L Newton, 11-1) ALSO RAN. 3-1 fav Harry, 4 Sharp Gazelle (4th), 11-2 Duveen, Hawwam, 10 Komiamaite (6th), 11 Trumble (5th), 12 Anchorena, Miss Cashtal, Rainbow Walk. 12 ran. 2l, nk, ¾l, 3l, 4l. D Chapman at York. Tote: £13.70; £3.00, £8.60, £3.80. DF. £413.50. Trio £251.90. CSF £117.81.

4.30 (1m) 1, TATIKA (G Milligan, 10-1). 2, Kingchip Boy (T Ives, 9-4 fav); 3, Sea Spouse (N Adams, 33-1). ALSO RAN. 11-4 Sea God (4th), 9-2 Legal Issue, 11-2 Master Beveled (6th), 16 Roar On Tour, 20 Aquado, Jalmaid, Twin Creeks (5th), 50 Cheerful Groom. 11 ran. 2½l, 1¾l, ½l, 5l, hd. G Wragg at Newmarket. Tote: £10.50; £4.10, £2.00, £10.70. DF £48.70. Trio: £437.00. CSF £32.81. Tricast: £689.23.

Jackpot: £29,790.00 (0.70 winning tickets; pool of £12,587.35 carried forward to Lingfield Park today).

Placepot: £997.80. Quadpot: £140.30.

☐ The meeting at Folkestone was abandoned because of frost.

Wembley passes by as Lowes heads for Bradford

By Christopher Irvine

JAMES LOWES forfeited the possibility of a third trip to Wembley with Leeds by moving to Bradford yesterday. As the hooker's transfer is beyond the deadline for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, he must sit out the home match against Batley, one of 11 rearranged fourth-round ties tomorrow.

Mick Shaw once again takes up the acting half duties for Leeds at Swinton. Lowes, a prodigious worker, found himself increasingly cast in a defensive role in the second row. His work-rate was sufficient for Leeds to tempt him with a fresh contract but Bradford's plans left Lowes in no doubt about where his future lay.

Brian Smith, the Bradford coach, said Lowes would be his automatic choice as No 9, ahead of two other utility players, Bernard Dwyer and Jason Donohue. The latter will play at hooker for the Batley game.

Smith is convinced Lowes can succeed Lee Jackson, now in Australia, as the Great Britain hooker. "When the Bradford chairman visited me in Australia, he left me a tape of Bradford v Leeds," Smith said. "There was one player who impressed me most. Unfortunately, he was playing for the opposition. I've kept an eye on James at Leeds ever since."

Although Leeds were anxious to retain Lowes, Smith apparently sees more in him and Paul Cook, the teenage England wing exchanged by Leeds in December, than the coaching staff at Headingley. In contrast to a procession of more than 30 players in and out at Odsal since the arrival of Smith six months ago, playing resources at Leeds are wearing thin.

The deal for Lowes appears to conclude the spending spree at Bradford. With Glen Tomlinson, the scrum half recruit from Batley, also cup-tied, Smith will not get the chance to put his first-choice team into play before the Super League but with a straightforward passage to the last eight, the Challenge Cup offers an exciting possibility.

There is no doubting how much the competition means to Alex Murphy, in his and John Dorahy's first match in charge of Warrington. They go to Oldham, semi-finalists last season, on the back of seven successive defeats.

The other all-Super League tie gives Shaun McRae his belated first sight of St Helens in action, at Castleford. Last week's postponement because of snow at least boosted the Australian coach's preparation time, but Ian Pickavance, Adam Fogerty and Joey Hayes picked up injuries. At stake is a tie at Rochdale or Thatto Heath, the St Helens amateurs.

Olympic sprint champion permitted to join Gunnell in Birmingham

Christie makes late dash for AAA championships

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

FOR the second time in seven months, British athletics officials have bent national championship rules to accommodate Linford Christie, the Olympic 100 metres champion. Christie's entry for the AAA of England indoor championships in Birmingham this weekend was received and accepted yesterday, although entries closed two weeks ago.

However, while it was wrong to allow Christie to run in the AAAs 100 metres final last summer, after his elimination in the heats, only a bureaucrat would disagree with the decision to let Christie into the 60 metres today. There will be those, no doubt, who will argue that entry conditions should apply as much to elite athletes as to club competitors, but not the paying public. Christie will now make his first home appearence in Olympic year at the National Indoor Arena a week earlier than expected.

Last July, down the road at the Alexander Stadium, Christie's request to run in the AAAs 100 metres final was agreed to, even though he had not appeared in the semi-finals. However, unlike last summer, Christie is not an isolated case this time. On Monday, two other sprinters, Jason John and Solomon Wariso, were accepted as late entries. "We have made an exception for athletes who were out of the country when the entries closed," Roy Tilling, the championship secretary, said.

Christie returned this week from Australia, where he ran a hand-timed 100 metres in 10.0sec and a wind-assisted 10.00sec. A spokeswoman for Christie said that his late decision had come because it had "fallen in with his training".

The irony is that, after the pay dispute with Christie last summer, Britain's two Olympic champions are appearing for nothing in an unsponsored meeting. Sally Gunnell will be making her comeback from the injury which prevented her from defending her 400 metres hurdles world title last summer. She runs in the 400 metres.

Some of Gunnell's Great Britain colleagues for the Atlanta Olympics may be decided today, when the marathon selectors meet. The difficulty on the men's side is that they are spoilt for choice. "We have not been in such a strong position during all the time I have been involved, which is since the 1988 Olympic Games," Alan Warner, the chairman of selectors, said.

Five men are contesting three positions, and one option is to pick only Peter Whitehead now and wait until after the spring marathons before adding the other two names. Only Whitehead has indisputably achieved one of the four criteria which the British Athletic Federation (BAF) said would guarantee selection six months before the Games.

Whitehead was fourth at the world championships in Gothenburg, when conditions were warm and humid, which is what is expected in Atlanta, though much worse. According to BAF policy, a top-five position books an Olympic place.

The four other contenders are Richard Nerurkar, seventh in the world championships and the 1993 World Cup winner; Eamonn Martin, the 1993 London winner and champion in Chicago in October; Paul Evans, second in New York in November; and Steve Brace, second in Houston last month.

There is little to choose between Martin, Evans and Brace from their most recent performances, while Nerurkar, though slower by four minutes, has shown up well in all the international championship marathons he has run. "We have to look at the ability of the athletes in difficult climatic conditions," Warner said, which suggests that Martin and Brace may be the unfortunate ones if the selectors fill all three places immediately.

It seems they might. "It has always been part of the policy to select early as far as possible," Warner said. However, should they do so, they could be embarrassed. Supposing a non-selected athlete becomes the first Briton since Tony Milovsorov in 1989 to break 2hr 10min? Evans, magnanimously given that Nerurkar has been injured recently, said yesterday that Whitehead and Nerurkar should be chosen, with the remainder settling the third-place argument in a spring marathon.

Not one British woman has attained the BAF standard for a guaranteed place, though chosing Liz McColgan would make sense. Karen Macleod, Marian Sutton and Suzanne Rigg have run qualifying times, but three into two will not go.

ROLAND LEON

Gunnell goes indoors and sidesteps hurdles today on her comeback from injury

IN BRIEF

Seles goes down to defeat in Tokyo

MONICA SELES suffered her earliest exit since her comeback last year as she fell to Iva Majoli, 18, from Croatia, in the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. The joint world No 1 from the United States, who captured her fourth Australian Open title last week, staved off two match points before going down 6-1, 6-7, 4-6.

Majoli will take on Martina Hingis, 15, of Switzerland, who beat Naoko Sawamatsu, of Japan, 6-1, 6-2. The other semi-final will be an all-Spanish match between Conchita Martinez and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario.

Foster in clear

Swimming: Mark Foster, the World Cup sprint freestyle champion, is almost certain to compete in the British Olympic trials next month in spite of a three-month suspension (Craig Lord writes).

Fina, the international governing body, suggested yesterday that, if a three-month suspension from competition in France imposed by that nation's federation — after Foster tested positive for cannabis at the French championships last July — were to be extended globally, it would "probably be retroactive".

Denial on Senna

Motor racing: Italian authorities yesterday denied reports that Frank Williams and Patrick Head, of the Williams Formula One team, were expected to be charged with manslaughter after the inquiry into the death of Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix 21 months ago. An assistant to Maurizo Passarini, the Bologna prosecutor, said: "There has been no decision and no statement from the magistrate. These are all hypotheses that are being made but on the basis of nothing. They are just suppositions."

Alphand's third

Skiing: Luc Alphand, of France, clinched his third World Cup downhill victory of the season in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, yesterday. Alphand clocked 1min 52.61sec in the first downhill on the Kandahar piste since Ulrike Maier, of Austria, was killed in a crash two years ago. Brian Stemmle, of Canada, was second in 1min 52.95sec, with Peter Runggaldier, of Italy, third, 0.01sec behind.

Select band

Cycling: Great Britain will take 19 riders to the Olympic Games in Atlanta, three more than went to Barcelona in 1992. Eight have been preselected, including Chris Boardman, who will compete in the time-trial.

Williams set to take final step

By Phil Yates

IT WAS, perhaps, inevitable that the Regal Welsh Open snooker tournament, a graveyard for the game's established players this year, would throw up a first-time finalist. Mark Williams will enter uncharted territory today when he plays over the best-of-17 frames for a first prize of £36,000.

Williams, 20, from Ebbw Vale, who more than compensates for his relative lack of tactical finesse by possessing a keen potting eye, yesterday added Dave Harold to his impressive list of victims at the event with a 6-1 victory.

The result, and more significantly, the cavalier manner in which it was achieved, will come as something of a surprise to Peter Ebdon, who voiced doubts about Williams's ability to capture the title after losing to him in their quarter-final on Wednesday 5-3. Ebdon, surprised by the number of high-risk pots from Williams, found it difficult to believe he could maintain that level of accuracy on a regular basis and said that his conqueror still required "a rub of the green" if he were to beat top players.

Those comments, while well-intentioned, could have provided the ideal motivation for Williams to repeat the same kind of display against Harold. Swashbuckling pots were again very much in evidence, even if sustained break-building was absent.

Williams, who began the season occupying 39th position in the rankings but has now climbed to fourteenth on the provisional list, regardless of the outcome in the final against John Parrott or Paul Hunter, managed only one half-century, a run of 58 in the fifth frame.

He did, however, succeed in potting some potentially pivotal balls, none more so than in the third frame when, striking the cue-ball across the nap, he sank a difficult pink to a middle pocket to seal the frame 54-44 for a 3-0 advantage. Williams also passed an examination of nerve in the seventh by fashioning a yellow-to-pink clearance taking that frame 55-41.

"What Peter said was rubbish," Williams said. "I know I can keep playing like I did against him because I do it all the time in practice. It certainly wasn't a one-off, for sure. When I read in the papers what Peter had said, I just laughed."

Neary makes television debut

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

AN EXCITING British prospect from Liverpool makes his first appearance on national television tonight. Shea Neary, who is being hailed as a "white Nigel Benn", will be seen on ITV when he boxes at Everton Park sports centre. Neary has been boxing as a light-welterweight for four years, but he is not known outside his home town. London promoters have tried without success to sign him.

Stephen Hyland, brother of John, who manages Neary, said: "No one has heard of Shea because we've kept him out of the public eye, but tonight the country will see something special."

Neary has an unbeaten record in 15 contests and holds the Central Area title. Thirteen of his bouts have had quick endings. In his last contest, he stopped the unbeaten Mark Richardson, of Guyana, in 130 seconds. Stephen Hyland said he did not believe anyone in Europe could stay the distance with Neary.

"No one wants to fight him," Hyland said. "We wanted to fight Paul Ryan, Ross Hale and Andy Holligan, but they wouldn't fight us. We asked the British Boxing Board of Control for a British title fight, but they gave us an eliminator with Bernard Paul. Then Paul pulled out."

Neary, born of Irish parents, is 27. He had an undistinguished amateur career and turned professional at the age of 23 after leaving the Army. He was with the King's Regiment and served in Belfast and the Falklands.

According to Hyland, Neary is a throw-back to the old days of boxing. He simply gets into the ring, gets the job done and gets out. "Doesn't go in for all that flashy stuff," Hyland said.

Neary's opponent will be Terry Southerland, an experienced American, from Cincinnati. Neary's backers are not worried about Southerland, who has a record of 19 wins out of 21, exposing their man in any way. "We are not in the business of kidding the public," Hyland said.

Also on the ITV programme, Matthew Ellis, the Amateur Boxing Association heavyweight champion and Britain's latest white hope, makes his professional debut. Also managed by John Hyland, Ellis, 21, is 15st 10lb and 6ft ½in, but is expected to scale 16 stone in a year or two and lift the British title.

Wilson poised for Alnwick return

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

JUST two of eight planned meetings seem likely to beat the frost this weekend. The **West Percy & Milvain** fixture, at Alnwick on the Northumberland coast, should take place tomorrow.

"It's mild here. There's no frost, the going is on the firm side of good and no inspection is planned," the clerk of the course, John Taylor, reported yesterday.

Those words will cheer Noel Wilson, whose comeback after breaking his leg in the autumn was held up by last week's weather. He is set to ride three for the Yorkshire trainer, Tim Walford, although a touch of virus in the yard means that running plans are fluid.

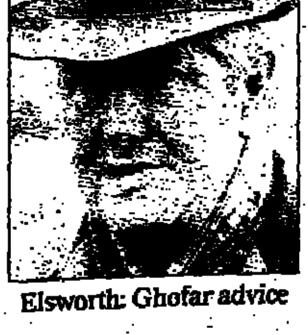
The **North Cornwall** meeting at Wadebridge was in no doubt yesterday, and some interesting horses will run. The former Hennessy Gold Cup winner Ghofar, now 13, tackles the confined under his new trainer-rider, Charles Crosthwaite, who is based near Liskeard.

"I've spoken to David Elsworth, his previous trainer, about the horse and he suggested leaving the blinkers off," Crosthwaite said. "I just hope he is in a good mood."

In opposition could be one of the best young West Country horses, the six-year-old Just Bert, who will be ridden by former national champion Philip Scholfield. "I prefer to let the horse do the talking, but he is very promising," the Okehampton-based Scholfield said.

Just Bert is also entered in the intermediate, while Chilipour attempts to gain his seventh successive win in the open.

The postponement of tomorrow's **North Western Hunt Club's** fixture for seven days means that champion men's rider Alastair Crow cannot make his seasonal debut, while Polly Curling has been denied a record attempt by the abandonment of today's New Forest card. Curling was due to ride in nine races and could well have broken the postwar record of five wins in one afternoon.



Elsworth: Ghofar advice

Other postponed meetings are: **Dunstan Harriers**, rearranged for Sunday week; **Old Raby Hunt Club and Oxford University Hunt Club**, February 17; **Thurlow**, February 18.

TODAY'S MEETING: North Cornwall (Wadebridge), one mile west of town (first race, 12.00). TOMORROW: West Percy & Milvain (Alnwick), 3m E of Alnwick (12.30)

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

1.10 Dato Star. 1.40 Flat Top. 2.10 Billygoat Gruff. 2.40 Issyin. 3.15 Dark Oak. 3.45 Teaplanter. 4.20 Penrose Lad.

Carl Evans: 3.45 Teaplanter.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.10 ACOMB NOVICES HURDLE
(£7,075: 2m) (20 runners)

1	4128	DIVERTIMENTO 11 (D,S) J Mackie 5-11-12	E Husband	90
2	221	JOCKS CROSS 18 (S) G Richards 5-11-12	A Dobbin	82
3	1342	*NONIOS 59 (F) G Moore 5-11-12*	*J Callaghan*	90
4	31	SOLOMON'S DANCER 56 (D,S) W Haigh 6-11-12	D Byrne	90
5		BARBAROJA 250F J Fitzgerald 5-11-5	F Leahy	—
6	-112	*BEGGARS BANQUET 67 (F) P Beaumont 6-11-5*	R Supple	[illegible]
7	111-	DATO STAR 91F (S) J Jefferson 5-11-5	M Dwyer	—
8		GREEN CRUSADER 119F (V) Mrs V Ward 5-11-5	J R Kavanagh	—
9	0	MAKE A BUCK 52 L Lungo 6-11-5	T Reed	—
10	43	ROBSERA 22 (BF) J Quinn 5-11-5	L Wyer	82
11		FASSAN 117F M Hammond 4-10-9	R Murphy	—
12		LEGAL BRIEF 138F J Wainwright 4-10-9	Mr K Green	—
13		MR EGLANTINE 134F A Smith 4-10-9	N Bentley	—
14		PENTRE FFYNNON 194F J Berry 4-10-9	M Moloney	—
15		PICKENS 128F N Tinkler 4-10-9	P Carberry	—
16		RICHELIEU 115F P Webber 4-10-9	R Garritty	—
17		TAKE A RIGHT 194F N Chamberlain 4-10-9	J Supple	—
18		CRAMBELLA A Smith 4-10-4	M Brennan	—
19		DANCE OF JOY 24F J Carr 4-10-4	N Smith	—
20		WARRGEM 235F B Ellison 4-10-4	B Harding	—

9-4 Dato Star, 7-2 Beggars Banquet, 4-1 Solomon's Dancer, 6-1 others.

1.40 SPOFFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,015: 2m 7f 110yd) (12)

1	-325	*MY HOUSE 24 (BF,D,G,S) J J O'Neill 8-12-0*	M Dwyer	93
2	2-U2	TOP CEES 56 (C,BF,G) Mrs J Ramsden 6-11-7	R Garritty	96
3	0-4P	MONKEY AGO 70 (G,S) Mrs S Bramall 9-11-4	Mr K Whelan (5)	—
4	/P3	*OUTSET 21 (G) M Hammond 6-11-1*	*Mr C Bonner (3)*	98
5	-223	ABBOT OF FURNESS 19 (C,S) G Richards 12-11-1	A Dobbin	92
6	-P61	FATHER O'BRIEN 48 (G,S) J Edwards 9-11-0	R Johnson (3)	90
7	-P00	NICK THE BEAK 15 (S) J Upson 7-10-11	J Supple (3)	98
8	4-00	RIMOUSKI 21 (G) B Cambidge 8-10-10	Mr J Cambidge	92
9	00-2	SANSOOL 18 (B,S) A Whillans 10-10-9	M Moloney	98
10	-P62	FLAT TOP 11 (S) M W Easterby 5-10-8	L Wyer	[illegible]
11	3030	GRACE CARD 11 (C,G,S) R Woodhouse 10-10-8	D J Kavanagh (5)	90
12	0520	*COUTURE STOCKINGS 56 (C,F,G,S) J Mackie 12-10-4*	*R Supple*	94

3-1 Outset, 4-1 Top Cees, 5-1 Father O'Brien, 6-1 Abbot Of Furness, 8-1 others.

2.10 SKIPTON NOVICES CHASE
(£4,013: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1	-2P1	*AVRO ANSON 21 (D,F,S) M Camacho 8-11-9*	*M Dwyer*	[illegible]
2	F231	CHIEF RAIDER 11 (D,F,G,S) J Wade 8-11-9	A S Smith	65
3	12-2	BILLYGOAT GRUFF 14 (G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-3	R Johnson	91
4	6/4	CALLERNOY 24 (S) D Lamb 6-11-3	A Manners	—
5	P-6	LORD OF THE WEST 63 (G,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-3	A Roche	—
6	P-26	PARSONS BOY 14 G Richards 7-11-3	A Dobbin	70
7	5-42	RANDOM HARVEST 56 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-3	N Smith	71
8	P/2	SAVOY 24 (G) G Richards 9-11-3	P Carberry	85
9	P-	*RUALMIT 456 T Tate 7-10-12*	R Garritty	—

6-4 Avro Anson, 7-4 Billygoat Gruff, 4-1 Savoy, 14-1 Chief Raider, 16-1 others.

2.40 RIEVAULX HANDICAP HURDLE
(£7,100: 2m) (11)

1	-001	*GOLDEN HELLO 18 (D,F,G,S) T Easterby 5-11-13*	L Wyer	96
2	01-0	PALACEGATE KING 27 (D,S) A Whillans 7-11-12	B Harding (3)	90
3	D003	WHITE WILLOW 23 (V,CD,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-11	Mr M Naughton (7)	96
4	-P40	DINO MALTA 33 (D,S) D Nicholson 5-11-3	R Johnson (3)	87
5	5422	TEJANO GOLD 79 (D,G,S) P Bradley 6-10-13	A Thornton	90
6	5540	BRAMBLEBERRY 23 (CD,G,S) Mrs S Smith 7-10-13	R Wilkinson (7)	97
7	1-31	*DOWN THE FELL 98 (CD,F,G,S) J Johnson 7-10-11*	*P Carberry*	[illegible]
8	521-	HIGH MIND 308 (D,F) Miss L Siddall 7-10-10	M Dwyer	85
9	8320	KING'S CROSS 14 (D,S) A J Wilson 7-10-8	L Harvey	95
10	12-3	*ISSYIN 104 (B,G,S) M W Easterby 9-10-0*	*Mr J Culloty (7)*	91
11	412-	SARMATIAN 178F (D,F,G) M Hammond 5-10-0	A Dobbin	88

3-1 Down The Fell, 4-1 Golden Hello, 5-1 Tejano Gold, 6-1 Palacegate King, 8-1 White Willow, 10-1 Dino Malta, 12-1 High Mind, 14-1 others.

3.15 MARSTON MOOR HANDICAP CHASE
(£10,358: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1	1212	UNGUIDED MISSILE 22 (C,D,BF,F,S) G Richards 8-11-10	A Dobbin	[illegible]
2	-P52	UNCLE ERNIE 14 (CD,BF,G,S) J Fitzgerald 11-11-7	M Dwyer	94
3	2-14	GNOME'S TYCOON 84 (CD,F,G,S) J Johnson 10-10-8	P Carberry	92
4	1111	MASTER BOSTON 14 (CD,G,S) R Woodhouse 8-10-8	L Wyer	96
5	12-4	*SPUFFINGTON 21 (G,S) J Gifford 8-10-2*	*P Hide*	90
6	1-22	VALIANT WARRIOR 49 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 8-10-2	D Bentley	95
7	3UU1	DARK OAK 30 (D,F,G,S) J Curtis 10-10-0	L O'Hara	89
8	4343	*STRONG DEEL 28 (D,F,G,S) W Reed 8-10-0*	*B Harding (3)*	96

5-2 Unguided Missile, 7-2 Gnome's Tycoon, 9-2 Valiant Warrior, 5-1 Master Boston, 6-1 Spuffington, 10-1 Uncle Ernie, 20-1 others.

3.45 HAROLD CHARLTON MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE
(£1,494: 3m 110yd) (11)

1	133-	DARK DAWN 269 (D,F,G,S) Mrs J Brown 12-12-4	S Swiers	73
2	2U-1	TEAPLANTER 14P (CD,F,G,S) Miss C Saunders 13-12-0	B Pollock (5)	88
3	4F/	ASTRE RADIEUX 644P (G,S) J O'Shea 11-11-10	M Worthington (7)	—
4	25P-	CAROUSEL ROCKET 261 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 13-11-10	J Cornes (7)	67
5	5/U-	CARTON 340 S Kelly 9-11-10	A Griffith (7)	—
6	5UP-	*OFF THE BRU 287 (V,D,F,G) Mrs S Bradburne 11-11-10*	M Bradburne (7)	—
7	U2-	POLITICO POT 291 (S) C Packitt 9-11-10	S Whitaker (7)	60
8	-UP5	*QUIXALL CROSSETT 130 E Cane 11-11-10*	*K Green (7)*	—
9	444-	SOUTHERN MINSTREL 402 (C,F,G,S) N Chamberlain 13-11-10	Mrs C Metcalfe (7)	85
10	005-	TIPPING TIM 378 (CD,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 11-11-10	M Rimell (5)	[illegible]
11	2-	WUDIMP 287P (F,G) Mrs J Storey 7-11-10	C Storey (7)	56

7-4 Tipping Tim, 9-2 Teaplanter, 5-1 Southern Minstrel, 8-1 others.

4.20 LEVY BOARD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,606: 2m) (25)

1	31-0	PLANNING GAIN 11 (G) L Lungo 5-11-9	F Perratt	—
2	1	RIVERDALE BOY 99 (G) J J O'Neill 6-11-9	A Roche (3)	—
3	510-	THE ANGEL LEEK 297 (G) P Bevan 6-11-4	R Johnson (3)	—
4	22	*BOLD ACTION 14 J Norton 5-11-2*	*E Callaghan (5)*	—
5		CASHEL QUAY Mrs P Bickerton 6-11-2	Guy Lewis (3)	—
6		CAVALLO Mrs S Bramall 6-11-2	J Burke	—
7		COOLTON HILL J Wade 5-11-2	K Jones	—
8	4	FERRERS 44 Mrs P Sly 5-11-2	R Marley	—
9	4	GALEN 56 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-2	G Lee (3)	—
10		LITTLE RED R Craggs 5-11-2	D Ryan (7)	—
11		LORD NICK R Barr 6-11-2	N Smith	—
12		*MOLONEYS DRAM K Morgan 5-11-2*	A S Smith	—
13		MR MOTIVATOR N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2	Mr M Rimell	—
14		PENROSE LAD D Nicholson 6-11-2	R Massey (5)	—
15		STRONG WORDS Mrs G Sarde 5-11-2	D J Moffatt	—
16		YOUNG ARDROSS J Norton 5-11-2	B Grattan (7)	—
17		PHILBECKY J Jefferson 5-10-11	M Newton (7)	—
18		SEPTEMBER BREEZE T Tate 5-10-11	R Garritty	—
19		STORM CALL D Whillans 5-10-11	B Harding (3)	—
20		*HAPPY DAYS BILL K Morgan 4-10-6*	*Mr J Culloty (7)*	—
21		JAYFCEE M Bielby 4-10-6	Miss R Judge	—
22		SWYNFORD PRIDE J Bottomley 4-10-6	D Byrne	—
23		WHITEGATES WILLIE J Johnson 4-10-6	P Carberry	—
24		FUNDWOMAN J Mackie 4-10-1	T Eley	—
25	4	MISTY IMAGE 14 B Murray 4-10-1	O Pears	—

3-1 Penrose Lad, 4-1 Riverdale Boy, 5-1 Bold Action, 8-1 Mr Motivator, 10-1 others.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.15 *Mac's Taxi.* 1.45 *Dia Georgy.* 2.20 *Sea-Deer.* 2.50 *Classic Pet.* 3.20 *Golden Pound.* 3.55 *Duke Valentino.* 4.25 *Wottashambles.*

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.20 *Hannah's Usher.* 2.50 *Learning Curve.* 4.25 **SACRED MIRROR** (nap).

GOING STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW BEST SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.15 PELLEW APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(Div I: £1,872: 1m) (8 runners)

101	00-0	MAID WELCOME 28 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-10-0	Amanda Sanders 3
102	300-	ROMAN REEL 93 (C,D,F,G) G L Moore 5-9-13	L Suthern (3) 4
103	355-	EXCLUSIVE ASSEMBLY 59 (G) A James 4-9-11	A Daly 5
104	0404	*MAC'S TAXI 2 (C,G) P Haslam 4-9-7*	*Carol Davison (5)* 6
105	646-	ZAHRAN 143 (CD,F,G) J Bradley 5-9-6	F Lynch (3) 8
106	5/0	PRINCESS PARROT 9 (V) Lord Huntingdon 6-8-12	Aimee Cook 2
107	4-50	OOZLEM 16 (B,D,F) J Poulton 7-8-9	T Field (7) 7
108	-300	PARONOMASIA 3 (V) M Bell 4-8-8	G Faulkner (3) 1

7-4 Exclusive Assembly, 9-4 Oozlem, 7-2 Roman Reel, 8-1 Maid Welcome, 10-1 Princess Parrot, 12-1 Paronomasia.

1.45 PELLEW APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(Div II: £1,872: 1m) (8)

201	405-	HATTA SUNSHINE 84J (CD,G) A Moore 6-9-10	*Iona Wands (3)* 2
202	00-1	LADYBOWER 26 (D,G) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-6	Aimee Cook 1
203	040-	BAD NEWS 108 J Bradley 4-9-4	D Sweeney (5) 5
204	5-40	DIA GEORGY 8 (B,C,D,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-2	Amanda Sanders 8
205	06-4	RACING TELEGRAPH 16J (G) J Payne 6-8-10	F Lynch (3) 4
206	06-3	NUTHATCH 11 M Usher 4-8-9	C Adamson 6
207	/00-	PALACEGATE GOLD 47 (C,F,G,S) R Hodges 7-8-8	A Daly 7
208	/00-	*AIR OF MYSTERY 87 N Berry 4-8-7*	A Eddery (3) 3

7-4 Ladybower, 11-4 Nuthatch, 3-1 Hatta Sunshine, Racing Telegraph, 20-1 Dia Georgy, 25-1 Palacegate Gold.

2.20 BLACKWOOD CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,886: 5f) (7)

301	6405	HANNAH'S USHER 4 (D,F,G) C Murray 4-9-11	R Cochrane 2
302	0-43	SEA-DEER 3 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-9	A Culhane 1
303	2-32	INHERENT MAGIC 2 (CD,G,S) W Muir 7-9-8	J Weaver 3
304	2-45	SOUTHERN DOMINION 5 (C,D,G) M Johnston 4-9-3	N Adams 4
305	0/0-	EZEKIEL 382 T Clement 5-9-1	M Tebbutt 6
306	-163	LIFT BOY 2 (CD,F,G) A Moore 7-9-1	Candy Morris 5
307	-650	SUPERLAO 14 (D,F,G) J Bridger 4-8-10	J Quinn 7

2-1 Inherent Magic, 3-1 Sea-Deer, 4-1 Hannah's Usher, 11-2 Lift Boy, 6-1 Southern Dominion, 10-1 Superlao, 66-1 Ezekiel

2.50 COCHRANE LIMITED STAKES
(£2,672: 6f) (14)

401	05-0	PEARL DAWN 7 (D,F,G) G L Moore 6-9-7	S Whitworth 10
402	-406	ASSIGNMENT 11 (CD,F,G) J Long 10-9-6	T Field (7) 1
403	0/	*BLYTON STAR 942 Miss J Craze 8-9-6*	*N Kennedy* 2
404	05-0	DESERT WATER 7 (B) J Bridger 4-9-6	J Quinn 9
405	0-00	MISTER RAIDER 3 (B) S Mellor 4-9-6	A Daly (7) 14
406	43-U	*PRINCE RUDOLF 28 (V,D,G) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-6*	Amanda Sanders (5) 7
407	4-00	ANYTIME BABY 4 (C,G) P Dalton 4-9-4	P McCabe (3) 6
408	10-6	CLASSIC PET 28 (F) C Horgan 4-9-4	A Clark 12
409	06-0	DIAMOND BANGLE 22 C Elsey 4-9-1	N Adams 8
410	-306	*FIERY FOOTSTEPS 8 S Campion 4-9-1*	*S D Williams* 5
411	4-00	JERSEY BELLE 7 (B,D,G) P Mooney 4-9-1	S Sanders 4
412	0-30	NIVASHA 16 R Hoad 4-9-1	M Fenton 13
413	030-	*LEARNING CURVE 71 M Prescott 3-8-0*	*G Duffield* 11
414	0-06	MOGIN 7 J Ffitch-Heyes 3-8-0	A Mackay 3

5-1 Mogin, 6-1 Fiery Footsteps, 13-2 Jersey Belle, 7-1 Classic Pet, Pearl Dawn, 8-1 Prince Rudolf, Anytime Baby

3.20 LODESTONE PATIENT CARE MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,615: 1m) (11)

501		CLYTHA HILL LAD 16J J Bradley 5-9-0	S Drowne (3) 11
502	0-32	GOLDEN POUND 12J Miss G Kelleway 4-9-0	A Clark 2
503	0/0	LOCHBUIE 15 J Eustace 4-9-0	M Tebbutt 10
504	0	RIZAL 10 D Murray Smith 4-9-0	J Weaver 5
505	50-2	*SECRET SPRING 30 (BF) P Hedger 4-9-0*	*S Raymont* 3
506	0-	TRAPPER NORMAN 46 R Ingram 4-9-0	N Adams 4
507	000-	VERDE LUNA 17J D Arbuthnot 4-9-0	S Whitworth 8
508	3-34	*FRESH FRUIT DAILY 9 P Kelleway 4-8-9*	*R Cochrane* 6
509	200-	KELLAIRE GIRL 51 A Moore 4-8-9	S Sanders 9
510	56/	OPENING RANGE 65J N Berry 5-8-9	A Eddery (7) 1
511	3	*RESTATE 17 F Murphy 5-8-9*	*J Fanning* 7

11-4 Golden Pound, 3-1 Secret Spring, 7-2 Fresh Fruit Daily, 5-1 Restate, 6-1 Verde Luna, 10-1 Kellaire Girl, 16-1 Opening Range

3.55 JERVIS HANDICAP (£3,566: 7f) (11)

601	1111	RAKIS 9 (CD,G,S) M Brittain 6-10-2	R Cochrane 11
602	/5	ABTAAL 9 (D,G) R Hodges 6-9-12	S Drowne (3) 7
603	141-	OLD HOOK 70 (CD,F,G,S) P Smith (Bel) 5-9-11	T Ives 4
604	1-00	DUKE VALENTINO 14 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-9	M Wigham 10
605	50-1	SOAKING 16 (CD,F,G) P Burgoyne 6-9-4	J Weaver 8
606	-302	INVOCATION 7 (CD,F,G) A Moore 9-9-2	S Sanders 6
607	5230	ULTRA BEET 7 (V,C,BF,F,G) P Haslam 4-9-2	J Fortune 3
608	00-6	AGWA 7 (CD,F,G) R O'Sullivan 7-9-1	D Biggs 2
609	0-44	TUIGAMALA 14 (CD,F,G) R Ingram 5-8-5	N Adams 9
610	000-	SCORPIUS 129 (B,G) T Clement 6-8-4	J Stack (3) 1
611	63-0	YO KIRI-B 14 (F) J Ffitch-Heyes 5-7-10	A Mackay 5

4-1 Rakis, 9-2 Tuigamala, 5-1 Old Hook, 11-2 Duke Valentino, 13-2 Soaking, 7-1 *Invocation, 8-1 Ultra Beet*

4.25 COLLINGWOOD HANDICAP
(£2,955: 1m 5f) (12)

1	2-31	IKHTIRAA 11 (B,C,G,S) R O'Sullivan 6-10-0	N Carlisle 8
2	130-	*BRAVE SPY 169 (G) C Cyzer 5-9-13*	*D Biggs* 3
3	000-	IN THE MONEY 47 (F,G) R Hollinshead 7-9-10	F Lynch (7) 7
4	55-1	SACRED MIRROR 7 (C,G) C Brittain 5-9-9	M Larsen 12
5	23-0	*CHEZ CATALAN 30 (D,BF,G) R Akehurst 5-9-4*	A Clark 9
6	433-	MO THOMPSON 140 T Clement 4-9-3	R Cochrane 10
7	6-50	BLASTED 19 (F) G Thorner 4-9-1	A McGlone 4
8	004-	JUST LUCKY 68 (G) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-1	Amanda Sanders (5) 11
9	0-00	CLAQUE 9 (B) D Chapman 4-8-13	A Culhane 1
10	-125	*WOTTASHAMBLES 18 (CD,F,G) L M-Hall 5-8-12*	S Sanders 2
11	-120	MILNGAVIE 5 (B,C,F,G,S) M Johnston 6-8-7	J Weaver 6
12	0-63	SASSIVER 9 (B,G) P Kelleway 6-8-6	J Quinn 5

5-2 Sassiver, 7-2 Ikhtiraa, 9-2 Sacred Mirror, 6-1 Mo Thompson, 10-1 Chez Catalan, Just Lucky, 12-1 Wottashambles

COURSE SPECIALISTS

LINGFIELD PARK: Trainers: M Brittain, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%; C *Murray, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Lord Huntingdon,* 37 from 169, 21.9%; D Murray-Smith, 12 from 56, 21.4%; M Prescott, 16 from 77, 20.8%. Jockeys: Aimee Cook, 3 winners from 12 rides, 25.0%; J Weaver, 60 from 248, 24.2%; L Suthern, 6 from 26, 23.1%; R Cochrane, 46 from 256, 17.8%; T Ives, 20 from 114, 17.5%.

WETHERBY: Trainers: *D Nicholson,* 14 winners from 46 runners, 30.4%; Mrs M Reveley, 44 from 154, 28.6%; N Twiston-Davies, 5 from 18, 27.8%; J Gifford, 4 from 17, 23.5%; J Johnson, 14 from 69, 20.3%; G Richards, 23 from 115, 20.0%. Jockeys: E Callaghan, 5 winners from 12 rides, 41.7%; L Wyer, 38 from 156, 24.4%; F Leahy, 3 from 18, 16.7%; D Byrne, 7 from 47, 14.9%; A Dobbin, 9 from 67, 13.4%; M Moloney, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 1.15 Princess Parrot, 1.45 Dia Georgy, 4.25 Claque. Sandown Park: 4.40 The Ned.

Saturday portrait: Rory Underwood, by Simon Barnes

Part-time hero ready to take wing from England rugby jet set

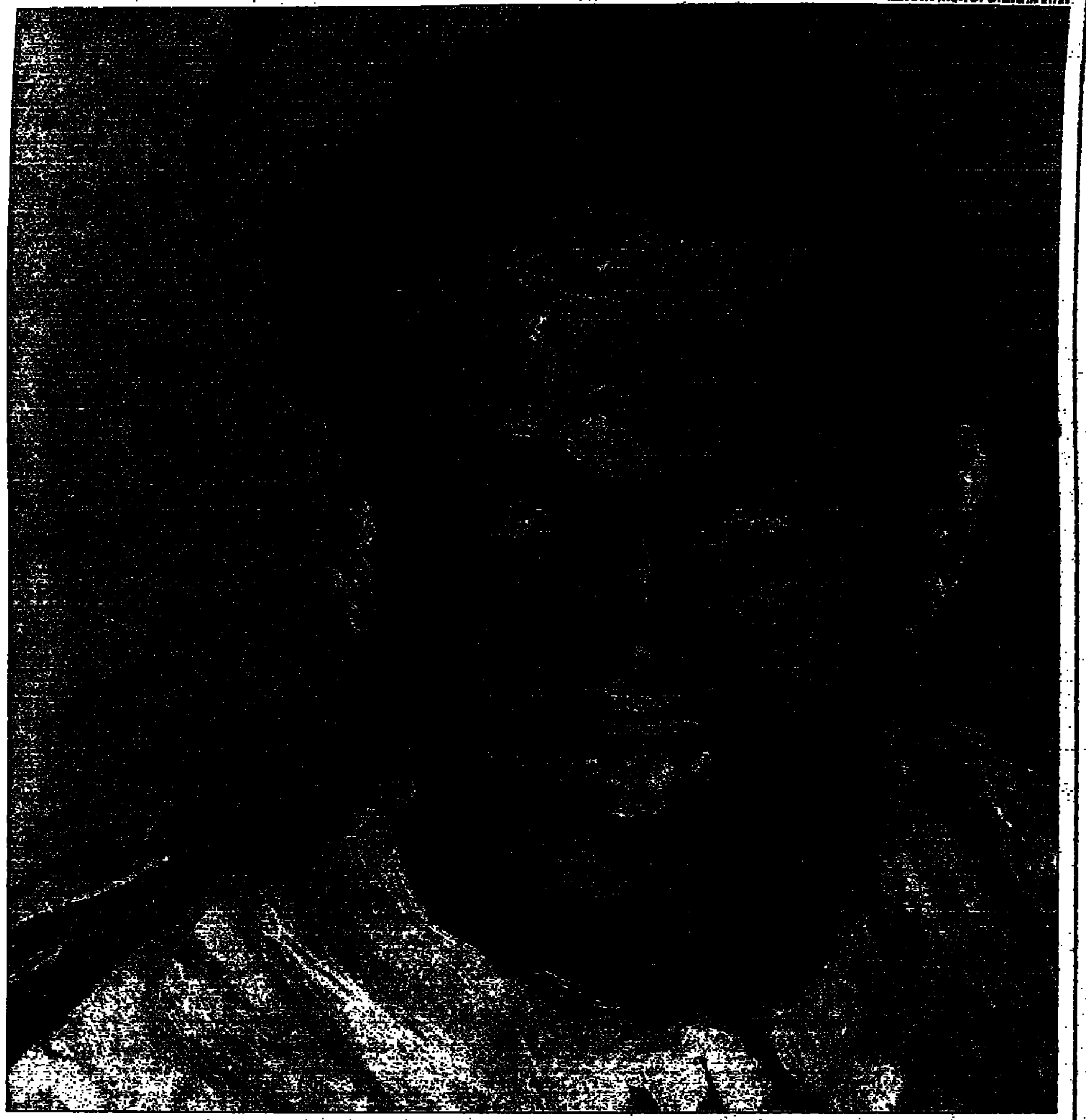


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

I once set eyes on a bird that was thought to be the only example of its species still living. It was a weird moment: heavy with the past and full of disturbing implications about the future. I had the same sort of feeling when I spoke to Rory Underwood this week.

Perhaps nobody ever again will collect 82 rugby union caps for England, 83 when he runs out against Wales at Twickenham this afternoon. Perhaps nobody else will score 48 tries for England, plus another for the British Isles against New Zealand. Underwood holds the England record in both these areas.

Mere excellence, however, is not the reason why one must ponder on the possible extinction of the Underwood species; must celebrate the fact that Underwood is a living fossil, a throw-back. It is the fact that he has another life. Most international rugby players have a life beyond training and playing, but increasingly these things are sports related. Their rugby eminence is, more and more, as time passes and rewards increase, a fact of their professional lives.

Underwood, of course, is in the Royal Air Force. England's flying wing. When not scoring tries, diving pell-mell to touch down one-handed in the corner through a hedge of hostile bodies, he was howling through Scotland at zero feet, keeping the world safe for democracy. It was all too comic-book to be true: but it was fact. Dashing pilot-officer, dashing wing. He was, and is, the finisher, the sniffer, the man who appeared from nowhere to make the difference between victory and defeat. A touch of the Linekers about him, but more: a *Boy's Own Paper* hero brought to life.

It is true that the RAF gave him plenty of time off to train: the Services are not blind to the kudos from sporting achievement. But the point about Underwood was that his was no grace-and-favour job. It was real. "The fact is that the RAF spent three or four million pounds to train me, so I am a very large asset in those terms," he said. The words are spoken matter-of-factly, but the quiet pride is obvious.

Yet as rugby moves, lurching, staggering and blinking hard, into the harsh light of modern professional sport, so standards and expectations rise. The rugby stars of the future will not be spending a third of their lives, or half their lives, on the game. Rugby will be *all* their lives, and nobody invests four million pounds on a man who has his being elsewhere, still less let him roar about the stratosphere with equipment that cost the National Debt.

"I think that's right," Underwood said. "I don't know if anyone else will be able to do it. It was always a very hard double to bring off, and it is harder now that I have a family."

Underwood is 32, with two daughters, aged three and five. There is not much further to go as an active sportsman. One hundred caps? "It would take three years. I don't think it is possible," he said. He has already retired once, in 1992, so he is not making any predictions about a second and necessarily final retirement.

> 'The speed and appetite remain strong. It is not his legs but his time that has gone'

For he is still fast. He last did a speed test before the World Cup, and was as fast as ever. He can have a bad game — a career of 12 years cannot but be sprinkled with bad games here and there — but he resists any suggestion that his "legs have gone".

It is his time that has gone, or almost. There was that strange moment, in the autumn international against South Africa at Twickenham, when he and his captain, Will Carling, performed a ludicrous sort of "ladies' excuse-me" with the ball, allowing Chester Wiliams to score. With that rather awful try, there was a faint but perceptible air of an era coming to an end.

That there was a backlog of disappointment from that World Cup defeat — trouncing — by New Zealand in the semi-final is undeniable. Underwood admits it, talks about a fresh start, a new season, and anyway getting to the semi-finals was pretty damn good. He is still fast, the appetite for the strife still strong. But for many people, that transition from wild twenties to sober thirties is the biggest leap in a lifetime. Underwood no longer flies aeroplanes for a living. He has taken a ground-instruction job at RAF Cranwell. "Weird," he said, more than once. "I've got my own office, and a desk and a computer, and I can go and get my own pencils. Weird. But there's a ground job waiting for everybody, isn't there?"

All this is effortlessly English: quiet confidence behind quiet self-deprecation. And 82 caps, and the flying — *serving*, he says — and playing. Serving England in the RAF, playing for England. England, Rory's England.

But those cheek-bones. They are about as English as the cheek-bones of Genghis Khan. They are certainly much stranger than the hint of Asia in the eyes. Underwood is the son of a Yorkshire engineer who worked in Malaysia and married a Chinese-Malay woman named Annie.

Undwerwood lived in Malaysia until he was 14, and remembers endless football in the tropical warmth, always one-on-one with his brother, Gary. The younger brother, Tony, kept getting left out, brothers being brothers. "It's hard to think of a bad memory about Malaysia," he said. Then it was back to England for schooling, but his father continued to work in Malaysia while Annie kept the family together in Yorkshire.

Underwood is half-Asian, but almost wholly English. "The English part is dominant with me," he said. "That's not the case with either of my bothers. I'm very proud of my roots, but I'm more English than them. Probably something to do with being in the Air Force." Underwood will keep on "flying a desk" for the RAF until 2001: a date at once remote and horrifyingly close. After that, who knows? But not rugby. "When I retire from the game, I will retire across the board," he said.

He would like to captain his club, Leicester, for a season before he calls it a day and, after that, simply carry on playing for England for as long as he is playing well. In a changing game, his appetite remains constant and keen. "I'm not staying in the game for money that's now available," he said. "It's nice to get it, of course, but it doesn't make any difference to the desire to play. When I think of retirement, I feel sorry for the players in other sports who are full-time sportsmen and nothing else. When they retire, they have nothing else to turn to."

The rugby players that follow Underwood, who will inherit the position of "flying wing", will not be flying aeroplanes as well. They will probably be faster and stronger, and they will certainly be richer. And many will watch them and yearn for the golden age, when rugby footballers played and trained only in time off from the real world. But in sport, as in everything else, time only moves in one direction.

Underwood is a player who has almost had his time: a player of the Great Transition. Will he feel frustrated at having lived through an era of administrative change, waffle, shilly-shallying and prevarication?

Will he say: "If time and administrators had been other, I might now be a millionaire?" A very straight look from above the breadth of the Genghis Khan cheek-bones. "I've got 82 caps," he said. Now, 83.

Long-hitting Open champion proves his short game is sweet in Heineken Classic

Daly produces display of iron will

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN PERTH

PAUL McGINLEY and John Daly are as different as Guinness and oysters. McGinley drinks, Daly is teetotal. Daly smokes, often lighting up during a round of golf, McGinley abhors the habit. McGinley is averagely long off the tee, Daly stupendously so. McGinley's coal-black hair frames a 240-watt smile; Daly is fair-skinned and fair-haired.

What they have in common here, as well as the habit of not wearing any head covering against the temperatures approaching 110F, is that McGinley's 68 and — even more so — Daly's 67 were among the most significant scores on the second day of the Heineken Classic at The Vines, near Perth. McGinley moved to share second place with Dean Robertson, three strokes behind Wayne Smith and one stroke ahead of Daly, the Open champion.

If anything, it was even hotter than on the first day. A small blessing for McGinley, 29, was that he started his round at 7.30am and had just about finished by the time the sun was overhead and at its fiercest. His play, particularly the crisp and accurate iron play, gladdened the heart of the engaging Dubliner. "I played sensible and solid," he said, summing up his performance with a broad smile.

After two such good rounds, which put him seven under par, it was no surprise to hear McGinley extol the condition of this course. After all, players tend to criticise courses only when they have scored badly. But it was a surprise to hear him rate it above both Portmarnock, where he competed in the 1991 Walker Cup, and Mount Juliet, the lovingly-tended site of the past three Irish Opens.

"The fairways, bunkers and greens are the best conditioned I have ever played on," McGinley said. Since he spent nearly five years competing on the best American courses while he was at college in San Diego, that is saying something. "When you play courses of such high quality, then it has to be good for your game."

The wind had swung around overnight, making the par-72, 7,100-yard course play even harder. McGinley, however, made light of it, just as Daly was to do later in the day. He had five birdies and made only two mistakes — ballooning a six-iron into a bunker, which cost him a stroke on the 14th, and missing the green on the 1st.

Daly's self-control has been questioned so often in the past, it is worth recording that for the second day he totally refrained from using woods. "It's the first time in my life I've hit irons for 36 holes," Daly said. He was tempted once or twice but wisely used the long irons with which he can hit the ball so far. "He's 40 yards longer than me with a driver," Ian Woosnam said. "He hits his one-iron as far as I hit my driver."

Jack Nicklaus made an acute observation about Daly recently when he watched the Open champion play one of those deft shots around the green for which he is not fully recognised. "But for his short game," Nicklaus said. "John Daly would be just another long hitter. There are plenty of those in the US."

Daly does, indeed, have the touch of a surgeon on and around the greens, as he demonstrated when he single-putted the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th. On this last hole he sank a 75ft putt, striking it with such force it smacked into the back of the hole and jumped into the air.

Twice he saved par with deft shots when he was off the putting surface and only a few feet from the flag, but as much as four feet below the hole. On the 13th, he hit a high pitch close to the pin; on the 17th he chose to run an eight-iron up the bank and he did it so accurately that the ball clipped the side of the hole before stopping two feet away.

Daly plays his second shot from the 17th fairway on his way to a 67. Photograph: David Cannon/Allsports

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Faldo rues putting lapses

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN MONTEREY

NICK FALDO was seeking slide-rule accuracy with his putter when he resumed his challenge for the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am under cloudy skies on the Monterey Peninsula here yesterday.

He twice missed putts from inside three feet in an opening round of 69, which cost him a share of the lead held by two Americans, Justin Leonard and John Elliott.

Faldo, who played his opening round on the Poppy Hills course, returned to tournament headquarters at Pebble Beach for a two-hour session on the practice green, where he used a metal ruler to line up his putts. The former Open and US Masters champion placed his ball at the tip of the yard-long ruler and frequently found the target from 15 feet.

"It's one of my drills," he explained. "I cannot afford to miss short putts like that if I'm going to have a chance here." After dropping shots at the 6th and 7th holes, Faldo recovered well with the help of four birdies. "They kept me in the tournament and now it is up to me to make the most of it," he said.

Howard Clark, who was in fourteenth place alongside Faldo, would also have shared the lead had he not had a six at the last hole of his round at Pebble Beach, where he hit his second shot into the back of a hazard.

The Yorkshireman was back in the fitness trailer before starting his second round at Poppy Hills. "I was close to pulling out before the first round because of a painful back but it has eased considerably," he said.

Sandy Lyle was also happy after his round of 70, which confirmed that he is on the way back. The Scot is now an impressive 27 under par for the ten rounds he has played since rejoining the US PGA Tour last month.

Daggers carve place in Test match history

SIMON
BARNES
On Saturday

IF THERE is one thing that this column truly prides itself on, it is a sense of proportion. I bring you only the truly important aspects of sporting life, and then only with true pedantry. And so, as New Zealand and Zimbabwe meet today in the final one-day cricket match of their series, let us ask ourselves this question: how many times, before these two met, have the opposing captains in a Test match also been their team's wicketkeeper?

Answer: never, until these countries played their three-match Test series this winter. So let us salute *†Lee Germon (New Zealand) and *†Andy Flower (Zimbabwe). History is made.

The combination of dagger and asterisk, rare in cricket, is very rare indeed at Test level. There are, I can reveal, only 15 other examples since time and cricket began. You want 'em? Murdoch (Aus), Blackham (Aus), Halliwell (SA), Bisset (SA), Sherwell (SA), Stanyforth (Eng), Nunes (WI), Cameron (SA), Alexander (WI), Imtiaz Ahmed (Pak), Jarman (Aus), Wasim Bari (Pak), Deryck Murray (WI), Ian Smith (NZ), Alec Stewart (Eng).

Horse sense

Which chunk of cricketing pedantry brings us to the burning question: what was unusual about the match played at Linsted Park in 1794 between the Gentlemen of the Hill and the Gentlemen of the Dale? Answer: the match was played on horseback. Knowledge of this important fact assisted a team from this newspaper to victory this week in the Howzat! Cricket Quiz Challenge, organised by Barnardo's at the Oval. They beat the *Daily Express* in the final.

Palace coup

In September 1990, L.J. Dunnell backed his football club, Crystal Palace, to win what was then the first division. Not overly rash, he staked £1 each way at 66-1. Believe it or not, oh ye football fans of short memory, they finished third. Dunnell wrote to his bookies, William Hill, this week: "I have only just found the ticket again, having hidden it in such a safe place that I'd forgotten where it was by the end of the season. As Palace are unlikely to finish in the top three of the Premier League in my lifetime, would it still be possible to collect on this ticket?" Hill's coughed up, £15.75p.

Cash it in! The odds on Hills paying up are greater than Palace in the top three

Upward spiral

The boom sport in the United States? Skating, what else. Like gymnastics, skating is a major sport overlooked by many people who should know better, entirely because women provide the bulk of the viewers. And to what does the sport owe the surge in popularity? To the chain of scandal that began with Tonia Harding and the famous knee-capping of Nancy Kerrigan.

This was followed by the incident of Nicole Bobek, who was accused of breaking into a house, and then by the horror attaching to Elizabeth Pussalan, whose brother stabbed their father to death. Meanwhile, undaunted, Tonia has kept things going in her own inimitable way. It has been possible to buy videos of Tonia in a car chase with the police, and also of Tonia's wedding night. Ratings soar: and so do the earnings of skaters.

Paper tiger

They take cricket seriously in the Caribbean. Recently, a gentleman named Dr Aubrey Armstrong, scorning the usual avenue of a letter to the editor, and clearly believing that half-measures are never any good, took out a full-page advertisement in the Barbados paper, *The Nation*, to express his views on the game and on the West Indies team.

Dr Armstrong rattled on fulsomely about the need for a sports psychologist and the passing of a dynasty, and called for an end to "the washing of dirty laundry in public".

Hidden extras

Rather than taking out a full-page advertisement in this newspaper, R.S. Tailyour writes to me instead, bidding the England cricket team takes courage, despite the humiliation suffered at the end of the tour to South Africa.

He produces a scorecard for the match between Huntingdon Grammar School and St Mary's Choir School, culled from *The Times* of July 24, 1928. The choirboys were all out for two, the total including a bye and a no-ball. So, naturally, there were also ten ducks and one nought not out. Carpenter took seven wickets, White two, and the other was a quixotic attempt at an actual run, which inevitably ended in failure.

"The members of the national team can comfort themselves that their performance was slightly better," Mr Tailyour writes. Ah, yes, but they weren't facing the demon Carpenter, were they?

Scotland face step up in class

France prepare to return to their traditional game

By Mark Souster

WHILE it is premature to consider the *68th meeting* between Scotland and France at Murrayfield *this afternoon* as a grand slam decider, the Royal Bank of Scotland *inter*national is likely to be the defining match of the five nations' tournament this season. After both countries won their opening games, whoever emerges triumphant this afternoon will have a huge part to play in the outcome of the championship.

Scotland know not to read too much into the manner of France's defeat of England, *although* they would be right to consider its implications. Having finally laid to rest the England bogy in the five *nations*', France, under Jean-Claude Skrela and Jo Maso, can *concentrate on reintroduc*ing a dash of brio into their game. As Phillipe Saint-André, their captain, said this week, he and France have a mental picture of how rugby should be played. Today, the canvas is again blank; whether the 67,000 crowd will see a masterpiece or a pastiche remains to be seen.

France must decide beforehand their battle-plan; they, and Thierry Lacroix in particular, must be wary of being caught in two minds. Yesterday, they were talking of a return to their finest traditions.

The omens are good. The sides invariably bring out the best in each other, the games in Paris and Pretoria last year were classics and the outcome this afternoon is likely to be equally close — too close to call.

Against England, France proved that, when necessary, they can jettison the flamboyant and bump and grind it with the best, New Zealand included. Pragmatism and *self-discipline* have been introduced to an awesome pack. *They* are, as *Jim* Telfer, the Scotland manager, said yesterday, the same size as Ireland's eight — that is half a *stone* heavier per man than Scotland — but there the similarities end. *They* are a fearsome unit, although, if they lack one element, it *is* mobility and that is the area Scotland will try to exploit.

The Scots will not want to be dragged into a stamina-sapping war of attrition. Rather, they will look to rely on the fast-rucking and quick possession that served them so well in Ireland and that allowed Redpath and Townsend to dictate events. That is easier said than done, though, and France will not be as accommodating as the Irish.

Scotland can draw strength and encouragement not only from the performance in Dublin, but also those two games last year and an impressive record against France at Murrayfield, where they have lost only once since 1978. While savouring the victory, Telfer is too much of a realist to get swept away by the tide of praise that greeted the win in Ireland. Scotland struggled in the lineout, where they only belatedly came to terms with Fulcher and Francis. Now is the time for Doddie Weir to produce the performance he owes Scotland, although he and Campbell have to be more streetwise than of late against Merle *and* Roumat. With a France back row that includes the *converted* lock, Fabian Pelous, Scotland will need to be at their spoiling best. They also need to develop a killer instinct.

Where Scotland also believe they can prosper is in midfield. Three years ago, Penaud was at stand-off half and Lacroix at centre as France beat South Africa 18-17 to seal a series win. The positions are reversed at Murrayfield, where the outspoken Penaud plays only his second game at centre, inexperience *which* Scotland hope to exploit.

France are unmatched *in* their back three, where Sadourny, Saint-André and N'Tamack can each create, counter-attack and score almost at will. Between them, they hold 114 caps and have scored 47 tries, six of them in the past three matches against Scotland. Gregor Townsend's tactical kicking will have to be of the highest class. In contrast, Scotland's trio of Dods, Joiner and Shepherd has a makeshift look about it; they are more competent than inspirational.

Telfer knows that Scotland will need to improve by at least 20 per cent to have any hope of winning. "France have far more pedigree than Ireland," he said. "The fact that they are playing away from home doesn't mean a thing as they showed in the World Cup and in New Zealand. Their *matches last autumn* with the All Blacks were something *to behold. The big hits* and physical confrontations *brought tears to* the eyes."

☐ Scotland's second string showed the senior side the way forward with a well-*earned* 38-32 victory over their French counterparts in a high-scoring encounter at Myreside yesterday. Damien Cronin, the captain, scored two of Scotland's four tries, while Scott Welsh, at stand-off half, chalked up 18 points before being injured late in a game that yielded nine tries. Four of them came in the final 12 minutes as France found space in a tiring Scottish defence to threaten an improbable victory.

SCOTLAND		FRANCE
R J S Shepherd (Melrose)	15	J-L Sadourny (Colomiers)
C A Joiner (Melrose)	14	E N'tamack (Toulouse)
S Hastings (Watsonians)	13	A Penaud (Brive)
I C Jardine (Stirling County)	12	T Castaignède (Toulouse)
M Dods (Northampton)	11	P Saint-André (Montferrand, capt)
G P J Townsend (Northampton)	10	T Lacroix (Dax)
B W Redpath (Melrose)	9	P Carbonneau (Toulouse)
D I W Hilton (Bath)	1	M Périé (Toulon)
K D McKenzie (Stirling County)	2	J-M Gonzales (Bayonne)
P H Wright (Boroughmuir)	3	C Califano (Toulouse)
R I Wainwright (Watsonians, capt)	6	A Benazzi (Agen)
S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP)	4	O Merle (Montferrand)
G W Weir (Newcastle)	5	O Roumat (Dax)
I R Smith (Gloucester)	7	L Cabannes (Racing)
E W Peters (Bath)	8	F Pelous (Dax)

Referee: C Thomas (Wales) Kick-off: 3pm — TV coverage: BBC1

Replacements: 16 K M Logan (Stirling Co), 17 C M Chalmers (Melrose), 18 G Armstrong (Newcastle), 19 S Murray (Edin Acads), 20 A P Burnell (London Scottish), 21 J A Hay (Hawick).

Replacements: 16 P Bernat-Salles (Bègles-Bordeaux), 17 S Glas (Bourgoin), 18 G Accoceberry (Bègles-Bordeaux), 19 R Castel (Toulouse), 20 M de Rougemont (Toulon), 21 L Bénézech (Racing).

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Scott Hastings takes a break from training to reflect on ten years of achievement in his country's colours

Hastings the centre of attention

Mark Souster meets a Scotland player free, at last, from his brother's shadow

Ten years ago the brothers Hastings, two callow but confident youngsters, made their first international appearances for Scotland against France. Gavin, as is his wont, marked the occasion by kicking all 18 points in a one-point victory. A decade on, Gavin has gone and with it any hint of sibling rivalry; much has changed and Scott, who today wins his *59th international cap*, against the French, and who *is comfortably Scotland's* most capped centre, is the last *remaining link with that era.*

For years their careers *marched hand in hand with* both winning their fiftieth cap against France two years ago. During that period, however, it was Gavin's prodigious scoring feats that attracted the headlines. Scott's achievements, not as obvious, were trumped at every turn.

If he was bitter, it did not show; although a clue to his innermost feelings is revealed in the *Rugby Union Who's Who*, in which he lists his most embarrassing moment as discovering Gavin was his brother.

Not that he would wish to dwell on that. Now, a playing career that looked dead in the water at the end of 1994, has come full circle, the wheel of fortune having moved back in his favour, testament to his commitment, staying power and still-burning ambition.

"It is frightening that ten *years have gone so quickly. I* can remember everything as *if it were yesterday. In a way I* am the last link with the *amateur game. I have one or* two years left but I am *pleased to have come through* in an era when contracts haven't been involved," Hastings said.

Such a long international career appears unthinkable in the increasingly hectic world of professionalism. "If I was 21 or 22 and starting out in the Scotland squad now I don't think I could go on for ten years. But I hope the experience I have can be used; I know I have got to perform to a level so other players can look to me as an inspiration."

His life has been one big stepping-stone, from first cap to first World Cup, followed by British Isles tours, and the crowning moment, the grand slam triumph of 1990. Success, though, has been mixed with failure — the heartache *of being dropped after the* debacle against South Africa, *his public humiliation* against New Zealand in 1993, *and several serious injuries.* It also irks him that his *defensive capabilities are* highlighted at the expense of his attacking skills, too often stifled by Scotland's limited approach.

Hastings, who is relishing the prospect of attacking what looks like a disjointed French midfield, said: "Ian Jardine and I may not have the silky touches of a Jeremy Guscott but if we breach the gain-line, stay on our feet in the tackle and set up good second or third-phase ball then all the better. I can't wait for the game. I still have immense pride in playing for Scotland and feel I can still produce some great rugby for them. In many respects France and Scotland bring out the best in each other. It should be an open, free-running contest."

After the sweetest of victories in Dublin, the sense of expectancy at Murrayfield will be huge. "France are the best team in the championship, as their record shows *over the past 12 months. They* have flair and passion but we *are not far off," he continued.* Concentration will be abso*lute and Hastings will ensure* his does not waver by chanting little catch phrases to himself, such as "attack the gap" and "pace and space".

So what is left for a man who came back in style in South Africa, scoring in the process his first international tries since 1991? For a start — and perhaps even a finish — there is Scotland's summer tour to New Zealand by which time he should have finally eclipsed Gavin's record as Scotland's most capped player.

It would be ironic, also, if the Scots were to pull off victory against the All Blacks — something even Gavin did not manage to achieve while playing for his country.

England's women aiming to conquer prejudice

By Alison Kervin

WHEN Joan Benoit won the first women's Olympic marathon, in 1984, she explained how complicated training could be for a woman in a "male" sport. "When I first started training I was so embarrassed, I would walk when cars passed me and pretend I was looking at the flowers," she said.

Much has changed for female marathon runners. But what of sports that are still considered to be entirely masculine in image, like women's rugby? As England prepare to take on Wales at Twickenham today, their female opposite numbers are training for the women's home nations match with Wales at Leicester tomorrow. Luckily, their ambition to play a game they love has not been throttled by insecurities and prejudices.

The game is well established, with 225 women's clubs and more than 7,000 participants in England alone. It is the fastest-growing sport for women in Britain. This season alone, more than 30 new clubs have registered. However, the game is still treated dismissively by many, and with disapproval by a few.

"One of the problems we face is that when women start playing the game they are real beginners," Gill Burns, the England captain, said. "Very few have played at school before, so people watching a women's game for the first time see a group of adults playing like beginners. They need to come along to see a senior club game, where there are people who have been in the game for a few years."

This is the first women's home nations tournament. France are not involved because of the expense of travelling to Paris — the women still pay their own travel and accommodation. However, England, the world champions, are paving the way by meeting France in an international on February 18.

The 45-strong England squad has been in regular training since September. Julie Twigg, who cut her teeth as a Great Britain rugby league international, makes her debut in the centre. Wales are led by Sue Butler, the Richmond flanker. Her team have struggled recently, but a new wave of young players has come through.

"I watch videos of internationals from a few years ago that we thought were really good, and suddenly realise how much we have come on since then," Burns said.

HOME NATIONS DETAILS: Result: Ireland 3 Scotland 21 (Blackrock College). Fixtures: Tomorrow: England v Wales (Leicester) Feb 18: Wales v Scotland (Cardiff). Mar 3: Ireland v Wales (Blackrock College); Scotland v England (Boroughmuir). Mar 17: England v Ireland (Orrell)

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

ERFURT, Germany. Pole vault: Women: Sun Caiyun (China) 4.27m (world record).

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Houston 115 Charlotte 111; Detroit 87 Indiana 70; Miami 124 Philadelphia 104; New York 110 Orlando 102; Dallas 108 Seattle 100; Milwaukee 108 Denver 102; Chicago 105 Sacramento 85.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final series: Group A: Istanbul: Ulkerspor 82 Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 68. Athens: Olympiakos 98 Antibes 83. Group B: Madrid: Real Madrid 76 Pau Orthez (Fr) 64. Barcelona: Barcelona 76 Cibona (Croatia) 68. Tel Aviv: Maccabi 83 Buckler Bologna 86. Positions: Group A: 1, CSKA; 2, Olympiakos Piraeus; 3, Benetton Treviso; 4, Ulkerspor; 5, Olympique Antibes. Group B: 1, Barcelona; 2, Panathinaikos; 3, Real Madrid; 4, Pau Orthez; 5, Cibona Zagreb.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 97 Hemel 78.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
London	20	17	3	1732	1448	34
Sheffield	20	16	4	1695	1367	32
Leopards	20	14	6	1770	1647	28
Manchester	21	14	7	1813	1728	28
Worthing	19	12	7	1786	1733	24
Birmingham	19	11	8	1764	1661	22
Derby	21	11	10	1845	1779	22
Doncaster	21	8	13	1651	1881	16
Thames Valley	22	8	14	1890	1941	16
Newcastle	21	8	13	1868	2025	16
Chester	21	5	16	1728	1894	10
Leicester	21	5	16	1521	1764	10
Hemel	20	4	16	1577	1784	8

CRESTA RUN

HANS BADRUTT CUP: 1, M Melcher (Switz) 99.73sec; 2, M Pitsch (Switz) 100.50; 3, J Sunley (GB) 102.16.

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

SPANISH CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Numancia 2 Barcelona 2.

FA TROPHY: First-round replay: Welling 3 Rothwell 0. First round, second replay: Hyde 3 Marine 0. Postponed: Trowbridge v Sudbury. First round, third replay: Hayes 2 Enfield 0.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Postponed: Llanelli v Afan Lido.

When is a shop not a shop?

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Southampton 0 Queens Park Rangers 2. Postponed: Tottenham v Luton.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Nottingham Forest 1 Oldham 0; Stoke 0 Notts County 2; Tranmere 4 Everton 2. Postponed: West Bromwich v Liverpool. Second division: Bradford 2 Blackpool 5

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Totton v B A T.

SCHOOLS: Exmouth College, Devon 5 Way Valley, Dorset 3; St Thomas More, Middlesex 2 Welling, Kent 3. Postponed: Moorside, Greater Manchester v St Wilfreds, Merseyside.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: ESFA Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Exmouth College, Devon 5 Way Valley, Dorset 3; St Thomas More, Middlesex 2 Welling, Kent 3 Postponed: Moorside, Greater Manchester v St Wilfreds, Merseyside

GOLF

MONTEREY. Pebble Beach National Pro-Am: First-round scores (US unless stated): 67: J Elliott, J Elliott. 68: J Maggert, L Rinker, W Austin, L Roberts, C Stadler, T Purtzer, S Jurgensen, M Springer, F Langham, F Zoeller, J Sindelar. 69: S Stricker, J Haas, T Watson, T Tolles, D Hammond, N Faldo (GB), H Clark, J McGovern, H Twitty, K Triplett, S Jones, O Uresti, B Henninger, B Wadkins, J Gullion, D Frost (SA), E Els (SA). Other scores: 70: A Lyle (GB), V Singh (Fiji) 71: J Parnevik (Swe), S Maruyama (Japan), 72: F Allem (SA), N Ozaki (Japan), S Elkington (Aus). 73: B Lane (GB), H Sasaki (Japan) 74: J Sandelin (Swe), K Murota (Japan) 75: S Rintoul (Aus), D Graham (Aus) 77: G Waite (NZ), S Appleby (Aus).

PERTH: Heineken Classic: Second-round scores (Australia unless stated): 134: W Smith 66, 68. 137: P McGinley (Ire) 69, 68; D Robertson (GB) 70, 67. 138: J Daly (US) 71, 67; R Pampling 69, 69. 139: S Richardson (GB) 70, 69, B Hughes 69, 70; J van de Velde (Fr) 72, 67, R Wessels (SA) 73, 66; L Westis 70, 69. 140: I Woosnam (GB) 69, 71; A Hunter (GB) 68, 72; G Evans (GB) 68, 72; R Gibson (Can) 67, 73; D Cole 71, 69; G Turner (NZ) 66, 74 141: P Devenport (NZ) 75, 66, M Goggin 70, 71, C Jones 69, 72; G Norman 73, 68; J Lomas (GB) 69, 72; F Nobilo (NZ) 69, 72; C Parry 72, 69; E Mizuguchi (Japan) 69, 72; M Lanner (Swe) 69, 72; R Stephens 69, 72, D Fardon 69, 72. 142: M Roberts 70, 72; P Eales (GB) 72, 70; A Sherborne (GB) 70, 72; S Laycock 69, 73; D Carter (GB) 73, 69; G Dodd 74, 68; S Tait 70, 72. Other scores: 143: M Davis (GB) 68, 75; P Price (GB) 71, 72; R Chapman (GB) 72, 71; R Boxall (GB) 70, 73. 144: D Clarke (GB) 73, 71. Did not qualify for final two rounds: 145: A Coltart (GB) 72, 73, S Bottomley (GB) 69, 76; R Rafferty (GB) 74, 71

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 2 Florida 2 (OT); Washington 4 Ottawa 2; Philadelphia 3 Montreal 2 (OT); St Louis 2 Vancouver 2 (OT); Colorado 6 Winnipeg 4; Calgary 1 New Jersey 1 (OT); San Jose 6 Los Angeles 6 (OT).

BRITISH LEAGUE: First division: Chelmsford 2 Guildford 4, Peterborough 6 Telford 6.

NORDIC SKIING

SEEFELD, Austria: World Cup: Men (10km): 1, B Daehlie (Nor) 22min 58.2sec; 2, F Valbusa (It) at 12.9; 3, J Isometsa (Fin) 21.4; 4, M Gandler (Austria) 28.0, 5, W Smirnow (Kaz) 36.8; 6, J Muhlegg (Ger) 37.5 World Cup standings: 1, Daehlie 810pts; 2, V Smirnov (Kaz) 651; 3, S Fauner (It) 392, 4, Isometsa 361; 5, A Prokurorov (Russ) 289. Women (5km) 1, M di Centa (It) 12:52 9; 2, S Belmondo (It) at 0.6sec; 3, J Valbe (Russ) 3.5; 4, N Gavriljuk (Russ) 19.5; 5, K Neumannova (Cz) 19.8; 6, M Theurl (Austria) 28 4. World Cup standings: 1 Valbe 700; 2, L Jegorowa (Russ) 540; 3, Di Centa 475; 4, Belmondo 441. 5, Gavriljuk 429

RUGBY UNION

A international

Scotland A 38 France A 32

Scotland A: Tries: Cronin 2, Renwick, Stark. Cons: Welsh 3. Pens: Welsh 4. France A: Tries: Campan, Delaigue 2, Lamaison, Venditti. Cons: Lamaison 2. Dropped goal: Merceron

(at Myreside, Edinburgh)

Under-21 international

Scotland 3 France 29

Scotland: Dropped goal: Richards. France: Tries: Gabin, Lievremont, Lombard, Nadau. Cons: Bruzy 3. Dropped goal: Bruzy.

(at Myreside, Edinburgh)

REPRENTATIVE MATCH: Combined London OB 24 RAF 14.

CLUB MATCHES: Aberavon 57 British Steel 0; Boroughmuir 48 Stewart's Melville FP 7. Postponed: Wigtownshire v Stewartry; Ayr v Glasgow HK.

SKIING

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN: World Cup: Men: Downhill: 1, L Alphand (Fr) 1min 52.61sec; 2, B Stemmle (Can) 1:52.95. 3, P Runggaldier (It) 1:52.96, 4, K Ghedina (It) 1:53.59; 5, G Mader (Austria) 1:53.86, 6, P Ortlieb (Austria) 1.53.90. World Cup standings: Overall: 1, L Kjus (Nor) 974pts; 2, Mader 798, 3, M von Gruenigen (Switz) 738; 4, H Knauss (Austria) 670; 5, A Tomba (It) 616; 6, Alphand 608. Downhill: 1, Alphand 532; 2, P. Ortlieb (Austria) 359. 3, Mader 327; 4, B Kernen (Switz) 289; 5, X Gigandet (Switz) 274; 6. Kjus 243

VAL D'ISERE: World Cup: Women: Super-G: 1, K Seizinger (Ger) 1min 11.32sec; 2, R Goetschl (Austria) 1:11 58. 3, H Gerg (Ger) 1:11.71, 4, M Ertl (Ger) 1:11 73; 5, P Street (US) 1:11.79, 6, I Kostner (It) 1:11 85. World Cup standing: Overall: 1, A Wachter (Austria) 886pts, 2, Seizinger 882; 3, Ertl 844; 4, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 684; 5, E Eder (Austria) 580; 6, P Wiberg (Swe) 568. Super-G: 1. Seizinger 365; 2, H Meissnitzer (Austria) 312, 3, Ertl 290; 4, H Zurbriggen (Switz) 204. 5, M Dorfmeister (Austria) 201.

SNOOKER

NEWPORT: Regal Welsh Open: Quarter-finals: P Hunter (Eng) bt D Henry (Scot) 5-4 Semi-finals: M Williams (Wales) bt D Harold (Eng) 6-1.

TENNIS

ZAGREB: Men's tournament: First round: Ivanisevic bt M Sinner (Ger) 6-4, 6-4; M Goellner (Ger) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 7-6, 6-4

TOKYO: Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: C Martinez (Sp) bt L Davenport (US) 6-2, 6-3, I Majoli (Cro) bt M Seles (US) 1-6, 7-6, 6-4; M Hingis (Switz) bt N Sawamatsu (Japan) 6-1, 6-2; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 7-5, 6-3

India risk Olympic suspension

By Sydney Friskin

INDIA may be suspended from the Olympic Games if they do not honour their commitment to play against England in the international match at Milton Keynes on March 24 that will open the new stadium.

The International Hockey Federation has told the Indian Hockey Federation that if *it fulfils its threat to withdraw* from the fixture, it will also be *fined and will have to reim*burse the host country. On the *domestic front*, Julian Halls, whose back injury prevented him from playing for Great Britain in the Olympic qualifying tournament at Barcelona, is now fit to play for Old Loughtonians this weekend in cup and league engagements.

Old Loughtonians are at home to Trojans in the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup today and away at East Grinstead tomorrow in the National League, where they hold fourth place in the first division.

Phillip McGuire, whose back injury kept him out of the first half of the National League programme, will make his reappearance tomorrow for Teddington against Reading. Laslett will not play for Teddington and Wyatt will be missing from *Reading's line-up.*

Mayer, who was also with *them at Barcelona, will, how*ever, play for Cannock, the *league leaders, who are at* home to Guildford. This *could be the match of the day* as Guildford will be challeng*ing at full strength.* Their team includes Daniel Hall, who also represented Britain at Barcelona.

The Welsh defence in the white heat of Twickenham...
Leeky.
(England to win by 11-15pts: 9/2.)
ENGLAND v WALES
Twickenham. Kick off 3.00 pm. Live on BBC.
1/5 ENGLAND 10/3 WALES 18/1 THE DRAW
First Tryscorer
8/1 Underwood
14/1 Carling
14/1 Catt
14/1 Evans
14/1 Guscott
14/1 Proctor
16/1 J. Thomas
20/1 L. Davies
20/1 N. Davies
Winning Points Margin
5/1 England win by 1-5 points
4/1 England win by 6-10 points
9/2 England win by 11-15 points
6/1 England win by 16-20 points
9/1 England win by 21-25 points
16/1 England win by 26-30 points
5/1 Wales win by 1-5 points
12/1 Wales win by 6-10 points
18/1 Wales win by 11-15 points
33/1 Wales win by 16-20 points
SCOTLAND v FRANCE
Murrayfield. Kick off 3.00 pm. Live on BBC Scotland.
15/8 SCOTLAND 2/5 FRANCE 16/1 THE DRAW
First Tryscorer
8/1 N'Tamack
10/1 St-Andre
14/1 Joiner
16/1 Dods
16/1 Lacroix
20/1 Hastings
Winning Points Margin
4/1 Scotland win by 1-5 points
8/1 Scotland win by 6-10 points
16/1 Scotland win by 11-15 points
4/1 France win by 1-5 points
7/2 France win by 6-10 points
9/2 France win by 11-15 points
Other tryscorers and margins on request.
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GOLF 46
DALY PROFITS
FROM RUB
OF THE GREEN

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 1996

Wales reliant on innocence of youth for expansive game

The ghostly figures of the Wales forwards run through a lineout drill in preparation for meeting England at Twickenham this afternoon. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Time for England to perform

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THERE is a seductive argument that suggests that there could be no better time than at Twickenham today for England to start playing the rugby of the Nineties to which they are said to aspire: the all-conquering 1995 five nations' victors at home to Wales, whitewashed in the championship a year ago.

The relative positions of the countries could not be more black and white, save for the significant changes that have affected rugby in the past ten months. As well as rugby union's philosophy, those changes apply to personnel, many of whom have been through the grinder of the World Cup last summer.

In England's case, that tournament marked the conclusion of some distinguished careers and brought demands for a more expansive game. In the case of Wales, they, too, have lost experienced players and have their third team management in less than a year.

Talking new-era rugby is one thing — playing it quite another. At least England, somewhat late in the day, have begun to get their minds around what is required, and that mental shift is significant. Wales remain the more innate rugby players and there is nothing that they would like more than to pick up the pieces of an error-strewn approach with which England are uncomfortable.

When the England squad came together last weekend, the players discussed in detail the style that they wanted to adopt. A variety of reasons sullied their approach to the pre-Christmas games with South Africa and Western Samoa, and against France, two weeks ago, they reverted to the game that had been successful in Paris since 1988.

Whether their honesty session will bear instant fruit will only be seen in the 102nd meeting of the countries this afternoon, but they seem more at ease now — and, if unusually severe training at Roehampton yesterday was any guide, determined not to compound defeat to France by losing to a nation that has not won at Twickenham since 1988.

No player has suffered more from the post-World Cup trauma than Mike Catt. A year ago, international rugby seemed easy; now, the "strike runner" at full back has become a blunt instrument in a back division that has lost coherence. At the same time, his co-tenants in the back three have changed, with the introduction to the right wing first of Damian Hopley, then Jon Sleightholme, and a new pair of half backs have been assimilated. "I think the criticism has been unfair," Catt said. "If the opportunities had been there and I messed up, it would have been different, but they haven't been.

"We have players who are among the best in the world at what they do. We have to get the ball to Will [Carling] and Jerry [Guscott], and as a back three we are hungry for possession. I'm not going to do anything silly and get caught in my own half all the time, but I want to try things. I want to be more adventurous.

"I'm a better runner with the ball than I am a kicker anyway, while Wales have some new faces with nothing to lose. If they want to play an expansive game, that could be good fun." Good fun? Is this a professional rugby player speaking? If it is, thank heaven for someone who is not weighed down by the "responsibilities" of sport.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, has spoken of the need for players to be aware of how much it costs to support the national team in this day and age. "The style that suits our young players is an expansive one and, if we can produce that, it will entertain the public, too," Bowring said. He might even remember the youth of the Wales team that came together in 1969 — two 20-year-olds in J P R Williams and Keith Jarrett, Gareth Edwards at 21, Mervyn Davies 22. They turned out to be half-decent players.

Yet he cannot but be aware of the physical challenge posed by England and, in particular, by the big back-row forwards, who will come running into the midfield occupied by 10st 11lb (if he is to be believed) Arwel Thomas. "The challenge is to stop players like Rodber, knock him backwards or move him around the field," Bowring said. "Arwel's a very brave player. He proved himself as a 19-year-old, playing for Neath against the South Africans two years ago."

More to the point, however, Thomas is a footballing stand-off, light on his feet, cool of brain; his selection is a triumph for instinct as against modern methodology as represented by Neil Jenkins.

Can this Wales team give him the chance to express his talents? The memory of Italy unravelling the Wales midfield during the final quarter of their game in Cardiff last month remains fresh. "We stopped talking to each other when we got to 31-3 and nearly lost," Jonathan Humphreys, Wales's chirpy captain, said. In a similar position at Twickenham, Humphreys and his colleagues would be be screaming their heads off.

However, what Italy could do, a far more experienced and heavily-favoured England should also be able to achieve. Matt Dawson and Paul Grayson, their half backs, have it in them to vary play far more than the game plan required in Paris, and *now* is the time for them to do so.

Dallaglio deal, page 3
Underwood portrait, page 46
Scots' central figure, page 47
Women's alternative, page 47

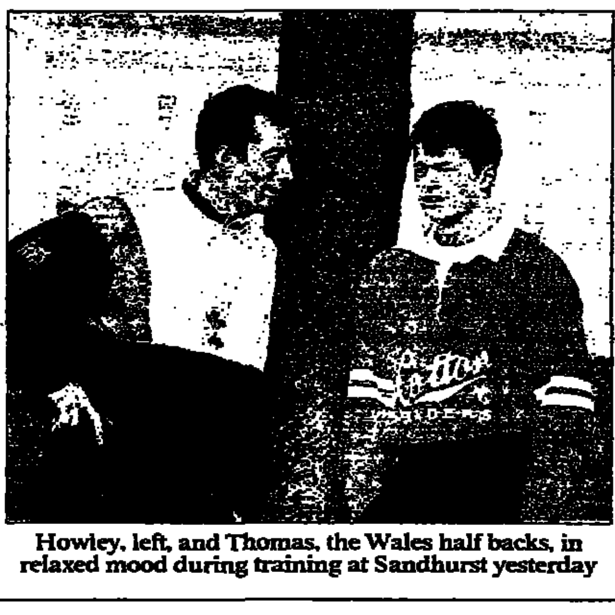
FIVE NATIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	1	1	0	0	16	10	2
France	1	1	0	0	15	12	2
England	1	0	0	1	12	15	0
Ireland	1	0	0	1	10	16	0
Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

RESULTS: Jan 20: France 15 England 12, Ireland 10 Scotland 16

MATCHES TO COME: Today: England v Wales, Scotland v France. Feb 17: France v Ireland, Wales v Scotland. Mar 2: Ireland v Wales, Scotland v England. Mar 16: England v Ireland, Wales v France

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP



Howley, left, and Thomas, the Wales half backs, in relaxed mood during training at Sandhurst yesterday

TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

ENGLAND		WALES
M J Catt (Bath)	15	W J L Thomas (Llanelli)
J M Sleightholme (Bath)	14	I C Evans (Llanelli)
W D C Carling (Harlequins, capt)	13	L B Davies (Neath)
J C Guscott (Bath)	12	N G Davies (Llanelli)
R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)	11	W T Proctor (Llanelli)
P J Grayson (Northampton)	10	A C Thomas (Bristol)
M J S Dawson (Northampton)	9	R Howley (Bridgend)
G C Rowntree (Leicester)	1	A L P Lewis (Cardiff)
M P Regan (Bristol)	2	J D Humphreys (Cardiff, capt)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	3	J D Davies (Neath)
T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)	6	E W Lewis (Cardiff)
M O Johnson (Leicester)	4	G O Llewellyn (Neath)
M C Bayfield (Northampton)	5	D Jones (Cardiff)
L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)	7	R G Jones (Llanelli)
B B Clarke (Bath)	8	H T Taylor (Cardiff)

Ref: K W McCartney (Scotland) Kick-off: 3pm TV coverage: BBC1

Replacements: 16 J E B Callard (Bath), 17 P R de Glanville (Bath), 18 K P P Bracken (Bristol), 19 V E Ubogu (Bath), 20 R G R Dawe (Bath), 21 D Richards (Leicester).

Replacements: 16 G Thomas (Bridgend), 17 N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), 18 A P Moore (Cardiff), 19 S Williams (Neath), 20 L Mustoe (Cardiff), 21 G R Jenkins (Swansea)

Security fears dominating build-up for World Cup

By Simon Wilde

ENGLAND'S 14-man party leaves London for Lahore this evening with hopes that the cricket World Cup will pass off smoothly on the sub-continent looking more forlorn than ever. The organisers have confirmed they will decide by tomorrow whether the four matches scheduled for Sri Lanka can go ahead.

Although the verdict will not affect England, who play one group match in India and the other four in Pakistan, they are not without their security concerns.

Their final qualifying fixture, against Pakistan on March 3, will be played in Karachi, a city that saw nearly 1,800 people killed in political violence last year.

The opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), which represents Urdu-speaking migrants from India, was heavily involved in the troubles and yesterday warned the Pakistan government that it would disrupt the cricket unless security operations against the party's followers were halted.

"If the government continues raids, arrests and extra-judicial killings of our activists during the World Cup then we would go for strong protest," Ajmal Dehlvi, a senior MQM leader, said.

However, the sorts of possible action Dehlvi outlined — strikes and boycotts — sounded disruptive rather than violent. One other group game, between Pakistan and South Africa, and a quarter-final will also be staged in Karachi.

England must play two of their group matches in the north-west frontier city of Peshawar, where the stadium has witnessed some unpleasant scenes, with visiting players struck by missiles and bombarded with firecrackers.

The England players will be advised not to leave their hotels in either Karachi or Peshawar. John Barclay, the tour manager, will be in regular touch with the local British High Commissions about security during the tournament. He has also sought the guidance of Mike Vockins, the manager of the recent England A tour to Pakistan.

The Pakistan interior minister, Naseerullah Babar, said yesterday that the government would take full responsibility for the World Cup being played without disturbance. "Normal conditions will prevail during the matches," he said. "Pakistanis will like to see the matches and not tarnish the image of the country."

Jagmohan Dalmiya, the convenor of the organising committee, Pilcom, said that he had been in touch with cricket officials in Sri Lanka, where a suicide bomber in Colombo killed more than 70 people on Wednesday, but wanted more time to assess the situation.

"I have requested the International Cricket Council and the Australian Cricket Board to give us until Sunday to decide whether matches in Sri Lanka can go ahead," he said. He refused to confirm reports that Pilcom was making contingency plans to move Sri Lanka's four matches to India and Pakistan.

"It's too early to say anything, nothing has been sorted out, but we are obviously very concerned at the developments in Sri Lanka," he added. Officials at the Wankhede Stadium, in Bombay, said that the match between Sri Lanka and Australia, scheduled for Colombo on February 17, could be played at the ground.

Australian players and officials are considering forfeiting the match if the venue remains in Sri Lanka and may even pull their side out of the tournament altogether. The Australian board meets early next week and will then discuss the matter with the players, who will by then be at a training camp in Brisbane. One Australia player, Craig McDermott, has already been the victim of a hoax telephone caller, who claimed to have planted a bomb at his home in Queensland.

West Indies, Zimbabwe and Kenya are also due to play matches in Sri Lanka. Zimbabwe and Kenya officials have said their teams are happy to do so; West Indies officials are monitoring developments closely.

Letters 21

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Cantona returns but minder is warned off

MANCHESTER United were eager to play down Eric Cantona's return to the scene of the crime, but controversy seems inseparable from their visits to Selhurst Park (Peter Ball writes). Yesterday, the role of Cantona's minder, Ned Kelly, became the subject for concern, with the ground's chief steward saying that Kelly would not be allowed to fulfil his usual role at the game against Wimbledon today.

"The tunnel area is for the exclusive use of players, management and match officials, and once the players come off the coach and into the ground, they are in our hands, not the responsibility of private security guards," Bob Morrison, the chief steward, said.

But Alex Ferguson, the United manager, countered: "Ned is part of the official party, they can't stop him. "If we choose to have him on the bench, that's our decision."

There have been suggestions that Crystal Palace supporters might attempt to stir things up by infiltrating the ground, but with 16,500 tickets in a capacity crowd going to United supporters, Cantona will have plenty of support.

☐ Birmingham City will have to play a home match behind closed doors if their supporters step out of line this year. The club was found guilty by the Football Association of two misconduct charges arising from crowd disturbances during the game against Millwall at St Andrew's in November. The punishment has been suspended until December 31.

McManaman role, page 42
Robson's choice, page 43

Students of the game pay homage

By Kevin McCarra

IT WAS the traditional Burns supper. The haggis was brought in as a guitarist incited 250 voices to sing *For It's A Grand Old Team To Play For*. Much, much later, once all the speeches had been made, the evening ended in the long-established manner. Tommy gave a zestful rendition of his favourite song, *Mack The Knife*, before an ecstatic audience.

This, you will gather, was not an occasion to honour the memory of Scotland's national poet: Burns, Robert. The audience would scarcely have tolerated that. James Lamb, secretary of the Heriot Watt and Edinburgh Universities' Celtic Supporters Club, was probably in tune with his members when he described the poet, accurately but incompletely, as "some womanising arch-Freemason".

The sell-out crowd crammed into a banqueting hall in Edinburgh much prefer to acclaim the Celtic manager: Burns, Tommy. Thursday's was the tenth annual supper and Burns, appreciating the affection and exuberant eccentricity that wait to greet him there, has missed only one.

The surname does help explain his role in proceedings, but it is a rapport with supporters that accounts for the supper's survival. Those who follow Celtic have never doubted that Burns's passion for the club is at least as great as their own. These, however, are students and levity, if not mockery, must mask the reverence. Witty presentations are always made and so, a few years ago, when Burns's wife was pregnant, he was given a set of Pampers, numbered one to eleven in the manner of the Celtic shorts.

On Thursday, another guest, Peter Grant, a midfield player more admired for industry than artistry, received some extra-long studs. "So the ball doesn't go under your foot," it was explained considerately. The full back, Jackie McNamara, whose car was broken into on the day he signed for Celtic, got a leaflet on vehicle alarms.

The event probably arose from a desire to tease. Celtic supporters would regard the regular form of Burns supper as one of the rituals of the establishment and feelings of disaffection seem to have been particularly strong on campus. As one of the founders of the alternative supper, Paul Reilly, puts it: "Edinburgh University was an appalling, middle-class place then. It was full of people called Tarquin."

One member of the audience, Ross Ballantyne, is so besotted with the event that he flew back from Texas, where he now works as an engineer, in order to attend. The frivolity of the Burns supper, however, also serves a serious purpose, since its proceeds go to charity.

"It gets better every year," the Celtic manager said. "Only students could have come up with this. I appreciate it because it would have been very easy for them to let the whole thing drop when I moved from Celtic to Kilmarnock in 1989. I look forward to attending, but it also makes me feel very humble."

This year, however, his famous namesake did manage to make an appearance at the supper. Indeed, a famous portrait of Rabbie Burns was reproduced on the front of the programme for the evening. Mind you, the bard had somehow acquired a Celtic scarf and bobble hat.

هكذا من الأصل

Skeletons in Republican's cupboard include ploys to avoid tax and Vietnam War

Forbes image loses lustre under glare of media scrutiny

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

STEVE FORBES'S free ride is over. Having built up the multimillionaire publisher to enliven the Republican presidential race, the American media has begun subjecting him to serious scrutiny.

Yesterday *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post* published long biographical articles on this improbable candidate which contained unflattering disclosures about his avoidance of the Vietnam War, his exploitation of tax loopholes, the unsavoury records of some of his advisers, and his flamboyant father's homosexual traits.

Newsweek and *The New York Times* have chipped in with awkward disclosures about Mr Forbes's pre-campaign settlement of his secretary's age-discrimination complaint and curious campaign finance arrangements. The Federal Election Commission is examining possibly illegal corporate contributions from Forbes Inc, the company he chairs.

In another development yesterday, the White House said that President Clinton had rebuked Richard Morris, his political guru, for secretly sending private polling data to Robert Dole, the Republican frontrunner whose lead Mr Forbes is rapidly eroding. Mr Morris told the Senate leader's advisers that the only hope of their man winning this month's crucial Iowa and New Hampshire contests was to reach an agreement with Mr Clinton on balancing the federal budget. The Dole camp rejected this "cynical attempt to blackmail us into a deal regardless of principle" and exposed the ruse.

The Wall Street Journal called Mr Forbes's life "one of ease and privilege" and pointed to the conspicuous "lack of crises and tough decisions that shape political character". It quoted him identifying his biggest challenges as primary school, college and taking over the family magazine, and continued: "At several critical junctures in his life, Mr Forbes seemed to sidestep difficult decisions."

Having drawn a high draft number during the Vietnam War he "carefully chose to minimise his chances of going . . . by joining the National Guard" long before he had to. As second-in-command of Forbes Inc. he had failed to act on reports that his father was "propositioning male staffers". He has also "embraced political experts known for negative advertising and exploiting themes of race and homosexuality to win elections".

Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, greets a supporter from his campaign bus in Council Bluffs, Iowa

The Washington Post noted that Mr Forbes had "spent his entire life nestled in the world his family's wealth created for him", rarely venturing beyond the affluent area of New Jersey where he was raised. It suggested that he toned down articles in *Forbes* magazine critical of friends and advertisers, and cited profligacy during his one government job as head of Radio Free Europe.

It disclosed that he saves $900,000 (£596,000) a year on property taxes on his 520-acre New Jersey estate by breeding cattle so the land qualifies for the state's farmland preservation programme. *Newsweek* reported that in 1991 Mr Forbes dismissed his long-serving personal secretary three weeks before her 65th birthday then quietly settled her age discrimination claim before launching his presidential candidacy. *The New York Times* reported that Mr Forbes was loaning, not giving, his campaign millions of dollars, which meant that he could recoup some or all of his investment if public fund-raising took off.

Sooner or later Mr Forbes's refusal to release his income tax returns is bound to become a significant issue. His father was a master of legal tax avoidance, and his opponents believe a revelation of similiar practices by this immensely wealthy candidate could seriously damage his campaign.

Clinton faces subpoena

Washington: Just one week after Hillary Clinton's subpoenaed appearance before a federal grand jury, President Clinton faces a possible subpoena to testify in an Arkansas fraud trial (Martin Fletcher writes).

Susan McDougal, one of the Clintons' partners in the Whitewater Development Corporation, has asked a federal judge in Little Rock to compel the President to testify when her trial begins next month. Mrs McDougal's estranged husband, James, the Clintons' other Whitewater partner and a co-defendant, is also attempting to obtain the President's testimony but without resorting to a subpoena. Mr Clinton declined to comment "because I don't know what the facts are".

Internet betrays virtual affair

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A MAN claims to have been cuckolded via the Internet and is seeking a divorce, citing his wife's computer line "affair".

Diane Goydan sent increasingly affectionate e-mail messages from her New Jersey home to a correspondent who signed himself "The Weasel".

He, sitting at his computer keyboard in North Carolina, responded eagerly. Although they had not met, they arranged a romantic assignation in the honeymoon suite of a New Hampshire hotel. It was to have been held yesterday, but John Goydan's divorce suit cooled their ardour.

In an unprecedented action, he claims his wife and her admirer, Ray, "got it on" during computerised discussions. Ray, believed to be married, tended to conclude his messages with hugs and kisses symbols.

Mr Goydan discovered their tryst when he returned early from work one day, to the surprise of his wife. She hurriedly switched off the computer, tearing paper from the printer.

Mr Goydan used his technical superiority to call up his wife's old e-mail on screen — and was appalled. He asked her to stop the electronic liaison, but in vain.

In November she messaged The Weasel saying she wished they were in bed together "in flannel nightshirts" and able to make love. She said she did not love her husband and, because of his vigilance, they needed to be careful. "I want so badly to be with you that I am willing to chance it."

Once the meeting was arranged, she wrote: "Do you consider our relationship an affair? "I'm not so sure it hits me as such, since we haven't actually laid a finger on each other . . . But I guess it'll be a different story in a couple of weeks."

Intrigued legal commentators said the case may indicate whether spouses have a right to see one another's e-mail.

For computer companies, meanwhile, there was the less cerebral satisfaction that this much-discussed example of "cybersex" may help to polish the Internet's nerdish image.

America accused of aiding arms shipments to Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

OVER the past three years, Saudi Arabia is reported to have funded a $300 million (£200 million) covert operation to channel weapons to the Muslim-led Government in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the implicit co-operation of the United States.

In direct contravention of a United Nations arms embargo which Washington had guaranteed to enforce, a senior Saudi official has said his country shipped arms to the Bosnian state both through Croatia and on board secret night flights to the northern city of Tuzla.

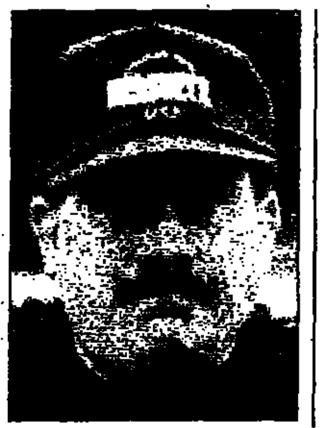
Deliveries of arms from the Middle East, particularly Iran, were long known about in intelligence circles. At the height of the conflict both Britain and France felt America may have smoothed the way for a series of mysterious aircraft spotted by UN peacekeepers landing at Tuzla. An Iranian 747 loaded with weapons was discovered at Zagreb airport in 1994, and shipments through Croatian hands were routine, with their forces taking a share. But the Administration has always suggested Turkey may have been responsible in helping deliveries across its airspace.

In Washington this week Lord Owen, the former European Union negotiator in the Bosnian conflict, said he believed America had been involved in a covert arms programme but said he could not prove the case.

For the first time last year, it was suggested America may have given its tacit approval to the Iranian deliveries, a matter strenuously denied by a White House which suggested again yesterday it was both "preposterous and insulting" to say that Washington had done anything more than turn a blind eye. Nevertheless, a senior White House official made little attempt at denial later. "There has always been the sense that the President was sensitive to the plight of the Bosnians," he said.

The new revelations of Saudi involvement, suggesting that the United States played a much greater role than was previously imagined, purport to show that stealthy co-operation began under President Bush and then blossomed under President Clinton. This may compromise American arguments for the current arming and training of the Muslim-led army before the current Nato mission to Bosnia expires. Saudi Arabia began its efforts to fund the Muslim cause in Bosnia to counteract exploitation of the issue by more radical states such as Iran.

America has already asked Saudi Arabia and a number of other moderate Islamic countries to contribute to a new programme to train and equip the Bosnian armed forces.



Volino: a car accident damaged his right leg

Leg pain hampers run-up to $1m kick

BY QUENTIN LETTS

THE ODDS on Michael Volino winning $1 million lengthened yesterday with the New Yorker's disclosure that his kicking leg was badly injured in a car accident last summer.

Police Sergeant Volino will take the million if he succeeds with a single place kick during half time at a football match in Hawaii tomorrow. He won the chance in a lucky draw conducted by Hershey's chocolate.

His right leg has not recovered fully from the accident, and after a kicking practice session, the non-sporty Sergeant Volino said: "It hurts like crazy." Earlier, he was given coaching tips by James Elam, one of the best place kickers in American football. "*Look for the sweet spot,*" said Mr Elam, a remark which pleased the Hershey publicists.

Amid the worry over his right leg, there came good news from Sergeant Volino's employer, the New York Police Department. By flying to Hawaii, he feared he had missed a rarely-held police promotion exam for which he has been studying a year. The exam was last held eight years ago, and Sergeant Volino wrestled hard with his conscience before accepting the chance to win $1 million (£666,000). Happily, the commission has now decided to let him sit the test later.

"I told my mother to express mail my study guides," said Sergeant Volino, 35. "I'm going to be reading and studying the entire plane ride home." Unless, by then, he is a millionaire.

Congress orders TV clean-up

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN parents may soon filter all undesirable violence and sex from their children's television screens in the wake of a landmark Bill passed by Congress which will transform the communications industry.

Broadcasters welcomed provisions in the legislation deregulating their industry. However, they had one bitter pill to swallow: new television sets with 13-inch screens or larger will have to carry the so-called V-chip allowing parents to block unpalatable viewing. The Telecommunications Bill is expected to be approved by President Clinton within a week.

Executives at the largest networks said they were pleased with the wide scope of the Bill but, with civil liberties groups, said they were likely to oppose the V-chip in court on First Amendment grounds. Civil liberties groups also vowed an immediate court battle over provisions that would block the transmission of smut over the Internet. Those who knowingly transmit electronic information deemed "indecent to minors" would be liable to fines of as much as $250,000 (about £170,000) and up to two years in jail. Congress also supported efforts to design a similar chip to prevent the availability to children of objectionable material on the computer Internet.

The main substance of the Bill loosens the limits on the number of television and radio stations owned by a single company and effectively promotes rivalry between local and long distance carriers as well as cable television operators.

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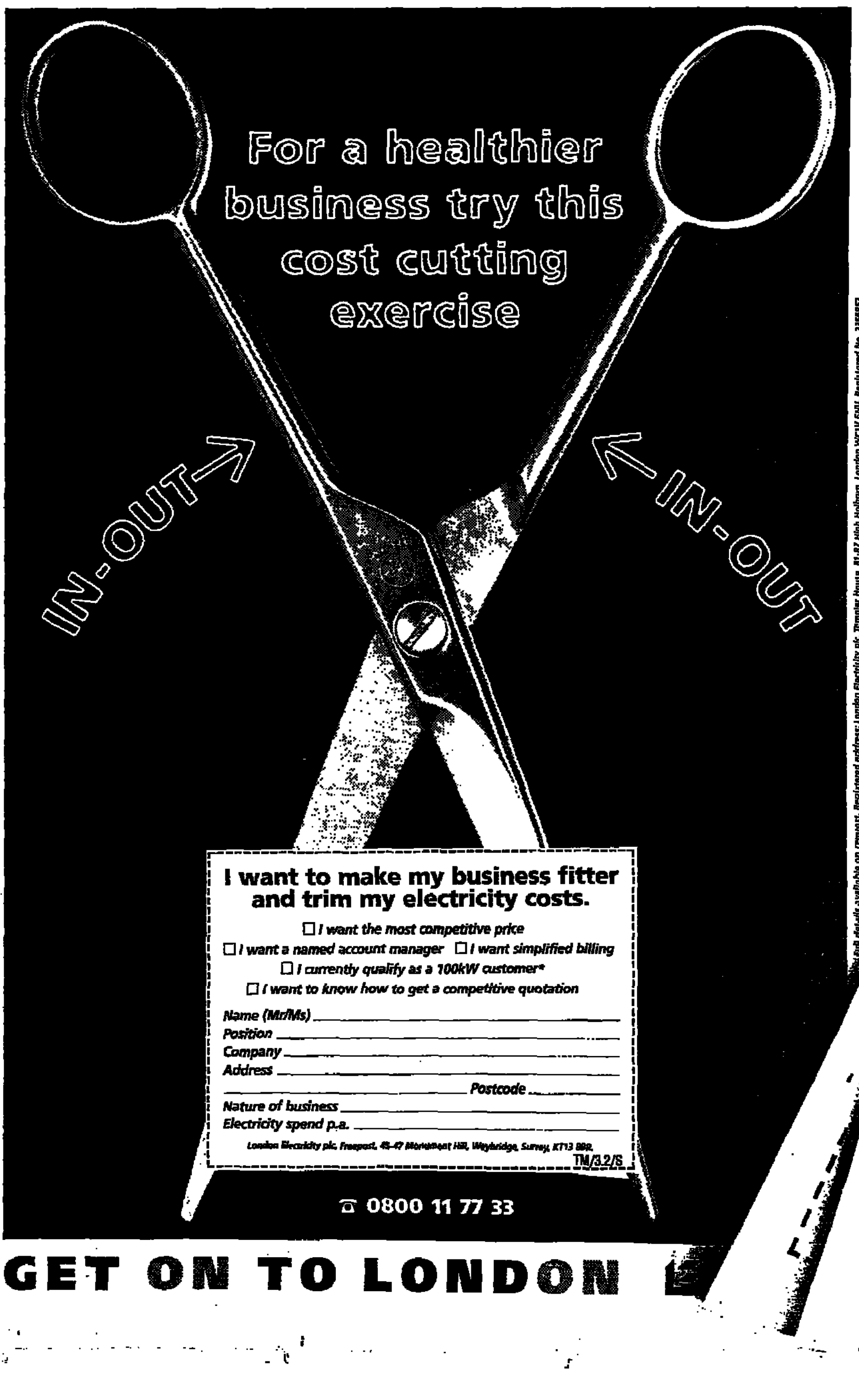
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Mitterrand's 'other family' threatens to sue over pictures

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

THE late François Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter and her mother have threatened legal action against news agencies that continue to distribute photographs of their attending the funeral of the former President.

At his funeral on January 11 Anne Pingeot, Mitterrand's long-time mistress, and his daughter Mazarine were seen for the first time in public alongside the former President's wife and sons. Their appearance provoked intense debate in France and photographs of the mother and daughter were published worldwide.

Reuters news agency in London yesterday sent out a bulletin saying it had been advised by Mme Pingeot and her daughter that "they will oppose by any legal means publication of pictures of them in press reports, books or any other support [media] unless expressly authorised by them".

The agency instructed subscribers to withdraw from their files five photographs taken on the day of the funeral.

A similar warning was sent by the Pingeots to other news and photograph agencies as well as several French newspapers and magazines.

The move to prevent further distribution of the pictures, a belated and probably futile attempt by Mitterrand's "other family" to preserve what little remains of their anonymity, is one of a series of privacy issues that have arisen since the death of the former Socialist leader.

The French Medical Association said last night that it would begin disciplinary action against Dr Claude Gubler, Mitterrand's private doctor, in connection with a book he published claiming that the former President had lied for more than a decade to cover up the fact that he had prostate cancer, the illness that eventually killed him.

Mitterrand's family have filed a separate law suit alleging infringement of privacy after *Paris-Match* published photographs of the former President on his death-bed.

The photographer in that case has not yet been identified, but Paris police have narrowed their investigations to five people out of the 400 family members, friends, colleagues, political dignitaries and other notables who came to pay their respects before the body of Mitterrand in the two days after his death on January 8.

Under French privacy laws, which are notoriously hard to enforce, any individual must give his or her permission before their photograph can be published.

However, lawyers last night expressed doubts over whether Mazarine and her mother could legally prevent the distribution of photographs taken at a public event.

Gilles Dreyfus, an expert in French privacy law, said that if Mazarine and her mother had been pictured attending an event where they knew photographers would be present, they could not legally prevent publication.

The existence of the former President's mistress and daughter has been common knowledge in French political and media circles for years, but it was not until 1994, when *Paris-Match* broke the story, that they were brought to public attention.

Mitterrand later agreed to be photographed with his illegitimate daughter and left specific instructions that she and her mother were to attend his funeral alongside his official family.

The Gubler case has also rekindled debate over French privacy laws and medical ethics. In *Le Grand Secret* Dr Gubler said Mitterrand was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1981, but that he had been forced to keep the illness secret for 11 years.

Published less than a week after Mitterrand's death, the book was banned, at the request of the former President's family, on the grounds that it violated personal privacy and medical secrecy.

About 40,000 copies had been sold and the book was also made available on the Internet. Last week excerpts began appearing in a newspaper on the French Pacific island of Tahiti.

Dr Gubler has already asked to be removed from the French medical register, but in a largely symbolic move the national medical association has begun proceedings that could lead to his being formally barred from practising in France.

Death-bed photo puzzle

TRYING to guess who took the death-bed photographs of François Mitterrand has become the latest parlour-game in Paris. As the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* quipped, two of Mitterrand's associates can be rejected as possible suspects. One is Jacques Attali, Mitterrand's long-time adviser, who was allegedly denied entry to the building because his memoirs had annoyed the former President. The other is Jack Lang, the publicity-loving former Culture Minister because, "if it had been him, he would have been in the photograph".

Pavarotti rehearsing his role as Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, performed this week to mark the 100th anniversary of the opera's premiere in Turin

Pavarotti lament for La Fenice transfixes Italy

From Richard Owen in Rome

ITALIANS yesterday turned with some relief from their country's troubled politics to the more relaxing turmoil and drama of the opera.

As Antonio Maccanico was appointed to lead Italy's 55th post-war Government, a 100th anniversary performance of Puccini's *La Bohème* in Turin captured the imagination of the nation, with a bravura performance from Luciano Pavarotti. The tenor gave added poignancy to the performance by dedicating it to the memory of the Teatro La Fenice in Venice, which burnt down on Monday night.

For many Italians, opera, like football, is not a matter of life or death: it is more important than that. The fire at La Fenice has seared itself into the national consciousness, with outpourings of grief dominating the media. What had been intended as a celebration of Italian opera in Turin became also a cathartic display of mourning for the lost 18th-century "jewel of Europe".

The Turin performance on Thursday night was held at the Regio Theatre, where Puccini's masterpiece was given its premiere in February 1896, conducted by Toscanini. Many in the audience wept openly when Pavarotti and his co-star, the soprano Mirella Freni, announced the performance was "dedicated to the whole opera world, which has been dealt such a blow by the tragedy in Venice". The singing was so emotionally charged that there were repeated curtain calls, ending in a 15-minute standing ovation for the singers and for Daniel Oren, the conductor.

Almost the entire nation appeared to be watching on television Puccini's saga of life and death among artists and writers in a Parisian garret, transfixed by Pavarotti as the starving young writer, Rodolfo, and Freni as the consumptive seamstress, Mimi. The fact that Pavarotti looks neither young nor starving was irrelevant, as were the implausibilities of Henri Murger's plot. This was a great performer on his home ground, superpowered by the poignancy of the demise of La Fenice as well as Mimi.

"It was a party we prepared with joy, but the fire in Venice took away a large piece of our heart," said Elda Tessore, the Regio's administrator.

Pavarotti said this week that he would sing in St Mark's Square, Venice, to raise funds for rebuilding. Yesterday the Spanish tenor Placido Domingo promised to join him.

Professor Giuseppe Pavanello, an art historian and the author of a study of La Fenice, said there was no reason why the it should not be restored. But there were reports yesterday that some outside walls are in danger of collapse.

☐ Paris: The United Nations cultural organisation, Unesco, launched an international appeal for funds to help rebuild La Fenice. *(Reuter)*

Rodney Milnes, page 17
Letters, page 21

British Council faces £21.5m cuts

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

LESS than a year after Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, hailed the British Council as one of the most effective instruments of British influence in the world, the Government has ordered cuts in the council's budget that mean it may have to close its activities in 20 countries.

The council has been ordered to reduce its spending by £21.5 million over the next three years. This is a cut of 17 per cent, which is far higher than that imposed on the Foreign Office, its principal sponsor. Without any capital programme, and unable to boost its income further from sponsorship or other activities, up to 500 people, from a staff of 1,200, may have to be made redundant.

The British Council, which spearheads the teaching of English abroad and arranges academic and cultural exchanges, is represented in 109 countries. If it cannot save enough money by drastic economies in Britain, including the contraction of its offices around the country and the possible closure of its Manchester headquarters, it will have to trim its overseas network. These have been established gradually and often in difficult circumstances in countries with little other contact with Britain.

Africa would suffer the harshest cuts. Some countries where English is becoming a strong competitor to French, such as Algeria and Senegal, may see an immediate halt to the council's work. In countries such as Namibia, Mozambique and Sierra Leone, the council would be forced to leave after having survived civil war and hardships that have driven out other Western aid programmes.

Latin America would also be hard hit. President Zedillo of Mexico, who said during his visit to Britain this week that he had learnt English from the British Council, is leading a drive to orient his country towards Britain and Europe and less towards America.

When the Government hosted its conference last March on Britain's place in the world, John Major and Mr Hurd paid lavish tribute to the influence of the British Council and the BBC World Service in winning hearts and minds around the world. This victory, they agreed, was often translated into cash when those influenced by British culture bought British goods.

Sir Martin Jacomb, the council's chairman, has asked Mr Major for help over the planned cuts.

Ex-deputies strip Duma offices

Moscow: Many deputies in the Russian state Duma who lost their seats in December's elections have tried to soften the blow by taking their offices with them, a parliamentary commission has found (Thomas de Waal writes).

Two-thirds of the 450 deputies were not re-elected and, according to Oleg Kushakov, an official responsible for members' material privileges, 93 personal organisers (valued at £1,655 each), 47 personal computers and a host of fax machines are unaccounted for. Some deputies say they are holding on to their computers because they contain valuable data, according to Mr Kushakov.

Deputies passed a resolution just before the end of the last parliament that extended their tenure in their flats and free healthcare until July 1 and granted them ministers' pensions on retirement.

Moscow vows to pay £140m owed to striking miners

From Thomas de Waal in Moscow

STRIKING miners in Russia, many of whom have not been paid for up to six months, have been told the Government's outstanding debts to them will be met next week.

On his fourth day as First Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy, Vladimir Kadannikov, the former car plant chief, met miners' leaders and offered terms to resolve the two-day strike.

Vitali Budko, leader of the largest mining union, said he believed Mr Kadannikov was sincere. "One can sense that Vladimir Kadannikov is an industrialist and although he is not familiar with the problems of the coal sector, he will try to get to the bottom of them," he said. However, he added that the minister's proposals were unlikely to satisfy his men.

The miners are owed about one trillion roubles (£140 million) but have so far been offered only 600 billion roubles (£84 million) towards their wage arrears.

The state-run coal organisation, Rosugol, said six more pits joined the strike yesterday, bringing to 124 the number taking part. Some have declared they are only striking for 48 hours.

The Energy Minister, Yuri Shafranik, told parliament yesterday that even a short strike would have crippling effects on the economy. "Even a one-hour stoppage of all the coal and electrical sectors would inevitably lead to a catastrophe," he said.

Mikhail Zadornov, the chairman of parliament's budget committee, suspected Rosugol was encouraging the strike to embarrass the Government into putting pressure on the railways and the energy sector to pay their debts to the coal industry.

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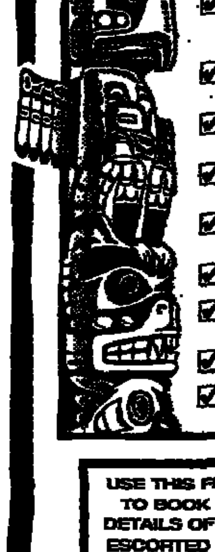

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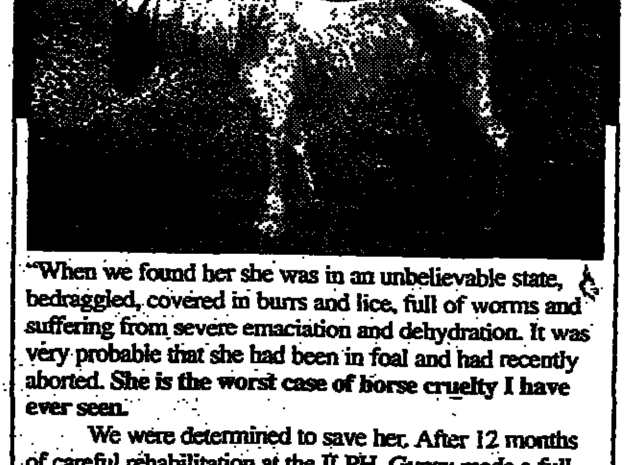

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Pleasure industry booms in China's new power-house

***James Pringle**, in the third of his reports from Shanghai, looks at the return of the world's oldest profession to a once austere city*

AMERICAN sailors in Shanghai for a friendly visit on board the *USS Fort McHenry* will find a very different city from the one seen during the last American port call there in 1989, just before the Tiananmen crackdown.

Shanghai was still an austere place then, largely untouched by the economic reforms that had transformed cities in southern China. But since the reforms took off in 1992, Shanghai has become a burgeoning power-house, not only of industry but also of entertainment, with its 5,000 bars, nightclubs, dancehalls, discos and karaoke bars, all with their array of smiling hostesses.

The last visit to Shanghai by a US Navy ship was just a day before Li Peng, the Prime Minister, declared martial law in Peking at the height of pro-democracy demonstrations. These protests were subsequently crushed on June 4, 1989.

In the picturesque tree-lined former French concession in Shanghai, which in prewar days was the site of many *maisons de plaisir*, a foreign envoy and his wife were startled recently in their diplomatic residence to hear the wail of police sirens, followed by girlish screams just down the road. "It turned out that a nearby café where I had often thought of dropping in for a coffee had been fronting as a brothel," the diplomat said. "The police carted off about 22 girls for 're-education'."

The world's oldest profession has returned to Shanghai where, in its heyday in the 1920s and 1930s, white Russian girls entertained American sailors and Seaforth Highlanders, and Chinese could seek out the thrills of the Great World, a six-storey pleasure palace where, at each level, the sing-song girls wore their *cheongsams* slit a little higher, until on the top floor they were cut to the waist.

Predictably, the revival of the sex industry here has led to a rise in venereal disease, and the menace of a scourge that did not exist in the free-wheeling 1930s — Aids. A total of 82 HIV cases have been detected in the city, with one case of Aids.

Shanghai newspapers blame the problem on the breakdown of family values, pornography and a get-rich-quick mentality, and they say that child prostitutes, such as those who were once to be found before the war in opium dens and brothels, have also made a comeback. Russian girls who, before the Communists took power in 1949, were billed as the "sweetest, cleanest girls in the world", are also back after the collapse of Soviet communism, with Ukrainians thrown in for good measure. Some of these large, blonde girls — favoured by gangsters and businessmen — do the nearest thing to a striptease possible in China, while others offer love for sale.

> ❛ Predictably, revival of the sex industry has led to the scourge of Aids ❜

Even the Great World has opened again as an entertainment centre, having been closed by Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution and turned into a warehouse, while staff were sent off to labour in the countryside.

Nowadays, this oriental pleasure house is intended to lure mainly transient labourers or poorer tourists, with an entry fee of only 10 yuan (90p). Though it holds little of its former allure, it is still more than a little bizarre.

"Let us join together and unite our efforts to have a great time," encourages a girl in socialist solidarity style, wearing a gaudy party dress as a rock band swings into action — at only 10am.

Unlike the bad old prewar days, when coolies or rickshaw drivers died unnoticed on Shanghai streets, everyone gets a slice of the action now.

Rushdie challenges 'ban'

Delhi: Salman Rushdie is asking the Indian Supreme Court to overrule what he claims is an unofficial ban on his latest novel, *The Moor's Last Sigh* (Christopher Thomas writes). The Government's principal objection appears to be that a dog in the book is named after Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first Prime Minister.

Indian Customs authorities, without making any public announcement, ruled that the book should not be allowed into the country. Mr Rushdie's Indian lawyer, Vijay Shankardass, said that there was no legal justification for taking such a step. "They should formally ban the book and justify that ban, or they should not interfere."

About 5,000 copies of the novel were distributed by its local publisher, Rupa & Co, before the Customs Department ordered it to halt distribution. Rupa had already decided not to sell it in Maharashtra state or its capital, Bombay, because it contains implied insults to Bal Thackeray, leader of Shiv Sena, an extremist Hindu organisation.

A nurse treats a child injured in the dynamite blast in Shaoyang, central China

Over 100 killed as illegal dynamite hoard explodes

By James Pringle

MORE than 100 people died when illegally stored dynamite exploded, destroying a block of flats and devastating the area around it in the Chinese city of Shaoyang. Another 400 people were injured.

"At first we thought it was an earthquake," said a rescue co-ordinator in the central-southern province of Hunan.

A local television executive said the entire street had been levelled. A brief film report on central TV last night showed hundreds of soldiers, police and volunteers searching through the rubble. All that remained of the five-storey flat block was a huge crater, the official *Hunan Daily* reported. Windows were shattered and injuries were reported more than a mile from the blast.

The official death toll stood at 77 but was certain to rise above 100 as soldiers extracted bodies from the rubble of several collapsed buildings, the rescue official said. "Workers are still digging through the debris and expect to find more bodies. The death toll will rise above 100," he added.

The cause of the blast, the Hunan newspaper reported, was ten tonnes of military dynamite which a resident of the block of flats had stored in the basement, where he ran an illegal explosives firm. City officials declined to comment on a report that police suspected the dynamite was detonated intentionally in an act of revenge. The resident was believed to be among those killed.

Two survivors were extracted on Thursday, almost a day after the blast. "Most of our patients were either crushed or struck by flying masonry," a doctor in a Shaoyang hospital said.

Officials said the dynamite merchant had received a consignment of explosives in lieu of money from a debtor and stored them in the basement. It is not uncommon for private mining families in China to store explosives and detonators in their homes, and similar accidents have happened in the past.

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Mercantile millionaires from Moscow home in on fashionable Swiss ski resort

Spending time on the slopes

GSTAAD FILE

by ROGER BOYES

THE newsagent on Gstaad high street has sold out of *Pravda* but he can offer, with an apologetic shrug, a copy of *Argumenty i Fakty*. By 11am even this Russian tabloid has been snapped up. The Russian *nouveaux riches* have been hitting the slopes of Switzerland and, much to the relief of depressed boutique owners, have become the most energetic off-piste purchasers.

The Russian children are being pampered at Swiss private schools; the mothers glitter in Versace togs at teatime in front of the crackling fire in the Palace Hotel. The fathers, called Igor or Boris, mutter into their mobile phones as they steer the rented four-wheel drive from Gstaad to rented chalets in Château d'Oex.

Throughout fashionable Europe — on French and Sardinian beaches, in plush salons and clubs — there are sneers and jeers about high-spending Russians. But in Gstaad there is nothing but praise for the new mercantilists of Moscow. There has been no fresh snowfall for weeks and the skiers are getting bored. Moreover, it is a poor time of year for celebrities: the more seriously minded move to St. Moritz to gain easier helicopter access to the World Economic Forum at Davos.

Stripped of the glamour of the 1970s — Elizabeth Taylor brawling with Richard Burton, David Niven on the slopes, or the Aga Khan in the cellar pub at the Olden — Gstaad in winter is something of a backwater, a pretty, overpriced ski-and-cowbells village. Gstaad society comprises of chalet owners, their house guests and the residents of the Palace Hotel which towers over the village, half Walt Disney, half Franz Kafka.

The actor Roger Moore has owned Le Fenil for 18 years and is a kind of doyen. The fabulously rich Flicks naturally have the most expensively decorated chalet, the Acquilotto. Elizabeth Taylor has a chalet close to that of Valentino, the fashion designer, where Joan Collins is staying for the season.

Nightlife centres on the house guests. Hollywood power brokers duck in and out of the Moore chalet and, less jaded than the long-time chalet owners, are willing to sample the *après-ski*. But somehow their partying lacks the vigour and noise of the Russian millionaires. The men may look like lorry drivers and talk like grocers but a Russian, even one who has made his fortune selling burglar alarms, knows how to celebrate. The local supermarket has four varieties of caviare.

Of course, the traditional jet setters knock back their share of Beluga and champagne; the old parties continue in their desultory way, but it is impossible to escape the conclusion the Russian millionaires are having a better time of it. Their mono-lingual bodyguards may be a nuisance, and the wads of cash may be a trifle vulgar, but they have understood a basic truth: there is no such thing as old money.

Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of an earlier, pre-Revolutionary time: "It is an amazing thing, the exclusive feel of security in which all of the tenants of the highest and middle storeys of the social edifice were living when the Revolution broke out."

The Russians, having lived through the break-up of an empire rather than just a Hollywood marriage, know better than to trust in the social edifices of millionaires' Switzerland. So, with verve, they spend, spend, spend. Perhaps next week the snow will fall.

'Big ears' child study causes flap

A SWISS kindergarten teacher from the Aargau region is causing a stir with a new study of the physiognomy and character of her five-year-old pupils.

This vaguely sinister study — with echoes of Nazi racial theories — is catching on in Switzerland, where there are courses in psycho-physiognomy and even a journal dedicated to the subject.

The teacher catalogued four children over several years, taking frontal and profile pictures of their faces. A child with sticking-out ears is identified as having a "strong desire to change his external environment", while a five-year-old girl with a pointed chin is said to have a "rebellious streak". Jaw structure, the length of faces and the size of eyes and mouths are carefully analysed.

Kindergarten teachers are being warned against following the example of this researcher and politicians — especially those with big ears and pointed chins — are on the alert.

REX FEATURES

Roger Moore, right, strolls through the resort of Gstaad with his guest, fellow actor Michael Caine

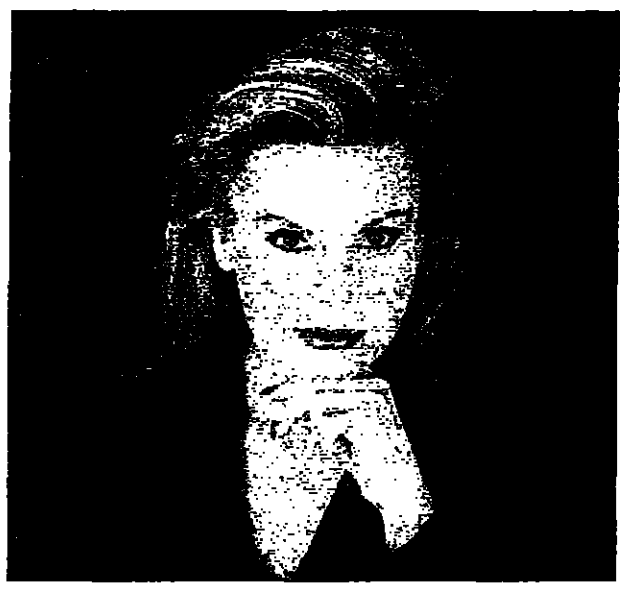
'Killer' dog trade worries officials

BIG, lumbering mountain dogs are naturally enough the fashionable pet in the Swiss mountain resorts. But there is a real concern in the Swiss Kennel Club about the increasing number of dogs being smuggled into the Alpine republic from Eastern Europe.

Dealers from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine have been bringing in pedigree Golden Retrievers and Boxer puppies for sale — at half normal Western prices — to unscrupulous Swiss breeders. The influx of animals has messed up the blood lines of the local dogs a little.

However, the chief worry is that Eastern European breeders are rearing killer dogs for sale to nervous Swiss property owners. Some — such as the caucasian Ovetscharka, the classic Soviet military guard dog — are trained to savage intruders.

Staffordshire bull terriers, which have been brought up in Czech "animal factories" where they are made particularly aggressive, are being snapped up, so to speak, as the favourite pet of Zurich pimps. Dog fights are illegal, but apparently are back in vogue.



Jacob, dubbed "the woman who collects brains"

Literary 'Amazon' brings intellectuals to book

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

ODILE JACOB, known as "the Amazon of French publishing", today celebrates the tenth anniversary of her publishing house and one of the more unlikely success stories in French literature.

On February 3, 1986, at the age of 32, Mme Jacob launched her publishing project with just three obsure-sounding science books. Ten years and 500 titles later, she is one of France's most powerful editors.

The list of Mme Jacob's authors include such names as François Mitterrand, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jacques Delors, Colin Powell and Shimon Peres. For a decade now, barely a week has passed without one of her books appearing in the bestseller lists in France.

In publishing circles, Mme Jacob is also nicknamed "the blond tornado" and "the woman who collects brains", a reference to the rich intellectual nature of the fare she offers.

At a time when, simply to survive, many French publishers have headed down-market, Mme Jacob has done the reverse in a successful crusade to bring intellectual and particularly scientific subjects to a wider readership. Analysts of the publishing industry say that Mme Jacob's phenomenal success in attracting some of the most formidable intellects in France has nothing to do with the fact that she looks like Candice Bergen, and everything to do with her rigorous, and old-fashioned approach to publishing.

Mme Jacob, who is married to a civil servant and former diplomat, is the product of one of France's foremost intellectual families: her father, François Jacob, won the Nobel Prize for Medicine, while her mother is a virtuoso pianist.

One brother is a philosopher, another a mathematician and a third a researcher. Sundays at "chez Jacob", she says, "were given over to grand intellectual discussions."

She studied philosophy and linguistics in France and at Harvard, and even toyed with a ballet career before striking out on her own in the notoriously cut-throat world of French publishing.

"Sciences and the human sciences are the key," she says, describing her publishing house as, "an attempt to signpost the great areas of thought and reconcile intellectual endeavour with commercial success."

Since publishing her first three books, Mme Jacob has branched out into medicine, health, art and politics.

Her latest coup is a posthumous work by Mitterrand. The late Socialist President and his friend Elie Wiesel recently collaborated on *Memoirs in Two Voices*, another bestseller published by Mme Jacob.

Mitterrand was working on his last book, a series of interviews and autobiographical notes, up until his death from cancer last month at the age of 79.

Mme Jacob will say only that the book will be published in the "near future".

Shin Bet hits cash scandal

Jerusalem: Four senior officers from Shin Bet, Israel's security service, have been forced to resign after they were accused of misusing funds to be paid to Palestinian informers in the occupied West Bank (Christopher Walker writes).

The resignations follow the departure of the head of the organisation, Karmi Gillon, and other top figures blamed for the gross security lapses that led to the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, by a Jewish extremist last November.

Simpson juror reveals all

Los Angeles: Tracy Hampton, who was excused from O. J. Simpson's jury halfway through his murder trial, has revealed both her body and her bewilderment at his acquittal of the murder of his former wife and a friend (Giles Whittell writes). Miss Hampton, who left after complaining about the stress of the long trial, is interviewed and appears naked in *Playboy* magazine.

Peking snubbed over Nobel prize

Hong Kong: Norway has spurned Peking's insistence that the Nobel Peace Prize must not be awarded to the "condemned criminal" Wei Jingsheng, the Chinese dissident (Jonathan Mirsky writes). In Oslo, Geir Lundestad said: "We are not going to enter into an argument. We are well aware of the Chinese opinion ... We will begin our selection work at the end of this month."

Ciller coalition attempt fails

Ankara: Turkey's conservative parties failed to form a coalition after an offer by Tansu Ciller, the caretaker Prime Minister, was rejected by her rival, Mesut Yilmaz. She had proposed they should share leadership of a coalition and alternate as prime minister. *(Reuter)*

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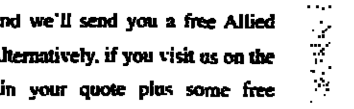

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Confessions of a sixth-former, aged 33

The happiest days of your life? David Mills, married, father of two, senior journalist, went back to his old school posing as a pupil to find out what sixth-form life is really like these days. Would they spot him as an imposter? Or would he, like 'Brandon Lee', the man who famously fooled a Scottish school, get away with it it?
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مركز الأرشيف

■ OPINION

Looking for a different sort of career move? How about writing a soap opera for Romania?

■ OPERA

Many happy returns, or *perhaps not*: a 100th birthday staging of *Bohème* falls flat

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC

Veterans in vintage form: *the Borodin* String Quartet wins acclaim at the Wigmore

■ ON MONDAY

Paul and I: distinguished *artists talk* about what Cézanne's art means to them

No point in getting catty, darling

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

The British and the Americans are the greatest showbiz nations on Earth. That's what they think in New York, too ... except that they leave out the bit about the British. What they can't ignore, however, is the unstoppable march of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. Last Monday, *Cats* became the longest-running musical ever on Broadway or in the West End. Confronted with this unarguable evidence of British superiority — at least when it comes to dressing up in furry overalls and crooning the less intractable poems of T.S. Eliot — even the most chauvinistic of American showbiz scribes might have offered our tunesome knight a word of grudging admiration.

Not a bit of it. *Variety*, the American trade magazine, churlishly points out that although *Cats* has clocked up more performances than *A Chorus Line*, the American show "has still grossed more at the box office", since it has apparently played in larger theatres.

This is fighting talk. Soon, no doubt, the Americans will be emptying chests of Lloyd Webber hits into Boston Harbour. Happily, revenge is at hand. This week, the Americans obligingly shipped to London one of the ghastliest musicals ever to reach the stage. *The Fields of Ambrosia* begins with a cheerful chorus as a convict frizzles on an electric chair ... and then gets really tasteless.

Naturally, the British critics gleefully put the boot into our westerly cousins. "Surely something can be done to discourage the dumping of American theatrical refuse in attractive London theatres," giggled Nicholas de Jongh in the *Evening Standard*. Unfortunately, London-based American journalists have already filed their retaliation. Yes, they have reviewed *Les Enfants du Paradis*, the RSC's "from here to eternity" show at the Barbican.

Now the transatlantic showbiz war has turned really dirty. The Americans have unleashed one of their deadliest weapons — an album of Burt Bacharach hits — to infiltrate our charts and debilitate our teenagers. We thought we had seen the last of *Raindrops keep falling on my head* a generation ago; now, it seems, we must fight the Battle of Bathos all over again.

And we shall. A British producer plans a £10 million staging of Sir Cliff Richard's youthful magnum opus, *Summer Holiday*. It must be dispatched to Broadway immediately. The American surrender will follow within days.

At least a month has passed since we last played the Wackiest Job Title in Britain game. I knew it was due for revival as soon as that Polynesian tree snail hit the front pages this week, because the London Zoo keeper who was wheeled out to lament its demise was described as "assistant curator of lower invertebrates". "Funny, I thought that was *my* job," said my wife, who teaches in one of London's more ebullient state primary schools.

Our man in the snail world was clearly the front-runner for the award. But then came the BBC's latest recruitment advertisement. What the soaraway Beeb most needs now, it has decided, is a "Soap Opera Consultant". As they say on *EastEnders*: wassat?

I'll tell you. The phone rings at 4am. Soap Opera Consultant Superhero had been working late on a tricky diamond-smuggling storyline for *Coronation Street*. But immediately he is up, pen in hand. The voice at the other end of the line is terse. "Get to Liverpool by dawn. *Brookside* needs a three-in-a-bed lesbian romp. I'll fax you last week's *Archers* script: you'll find a similar situation involving the new vicar on page 12. Then take the next plane to Sydney. There's trouble on *Neighbours*. Marlene's long-lost Peruvian love-child arrives next week, but nobody can remember why."

Of course I am fantasising. As I get older, I find it helps. But in this case the truth is stranger than fiction. It turns out that the BBC is "working with Radio Romania to produce a radio soap opera to increase understanding about business and privatisation among the general population".

Gosh. As it happens, I know a little about this subject. Three years ago, I went to Bucharest at a time when the Romanian National Opera was about to be "privatised" — or so I was persuasively informed by several bulky men with funny bulges in their jackets. Naturally I was curious to know how this Thatcherite conversion would be accomplished in a theatre that seemed to employ half the populace of Bucharest to entertain a handful of tourists each night for about 2p a ticket. So I interviewed an opera house spokeswoman.

"What does privatising the opera mean?" I asked. "More money is desperately needed," she replied. "But where is this money to come from?" I persisted, in the specially tenacious voice that I reserve for bullying small women. "More realistic ticket prices? Sponsorship from Western business?"

"No," she exclaimed, incredulously. "From the State!"

Clearly the word privatisation does not translate easily into *Romanian. Never mind; I am sure* that with a little help from the BBC's Soap Opera Consultant Superhero, Romania's newly privatised industries will soon be surging into realms of profit unknown even to British water companies. Or else the whole country will be gripped by the unfolding saga of a three-in-a-bed lesbian romp. Either way, it's another international triumph for the BBC. Lord Reith would have been proud.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

WILLIAM DAZELEY

Age: 29

Profession: Baritone

Where can he be heard? Dazeley is playing Marcello in the centenary *La Bohème* at the Albert Hall. "I'm bringing out the frustration in Marcello who, while having everything in control emotionally, knows there's something missing, is jealous of Rodolfo's tender love."

After *Bohème*: "This is my Count year," Dazeley says. He will be the Count in Figaro with Opera North and Glyndebourne Touring Opera, then "the same character in a different opera", Massenet's *Chérubin* for his Covent Garden debut.

Background: At school (Rugby), contemplated being a cellist, but the hours of practice sounded grim. Read German and French at Cambridge.

Why did he become an opera singer? "I've always been singing," he says. "But one day at Cambridge my singing teacher asked me if I'd thought of making it a career." Dazeley recalls "giving some blasé response. He shouted at me for half an hour about treating a talent with such indifference. It shocked me, someone caring so much about a part of me. I started working."

Close shaves: Playing Don Giovanni in Israel, Dazeley was narrowly missed by a gigantic Christ, crashing down from the flies. He has only had one stinking review, but the critic accidentally put another performer's name.

Ambitions: Longs to play Billy Budd. "More generally", he says, " I would like to work four months a year abroad — where you earn five times as much — so I could choose the jobs I really want to do here. The work here is excellent, innovative, and going in the right direction, drawing out opera's drama and meaning, not just its spectacle."

On himself: "I think I'm fairly relaxed about things. I do have an explosion about once a year, which is horrendous for everyone." What else? "Quietly ambitious."

KATE BASSETT

Too much power to the people

DONALD COOPER

"If this is privatised opera, include me out": *La Bohème* turns 100 in straitened circumstances at the Albert Hall

OPERA

La Bohème
Albert Hall

While you have to admire Raymond Gubbay's missionary zeal in bringing good music to the widest possible audience — and, although you wouldn't think it during the last few weeks' hype, there are one or two other organisations seeking to do the same thing — some crucially bad decisions were taken in his centenary arena staging of Puccini's opera.

For a start, why amplification? Since the Albert Hall was built, singers of all kinds have performed there perfectly audibly. Glyndebourne takes opera there without feeling the need for mikes: one of Britten's Church Parables has been staged in the round at the Proms, and worked extremely well. The game was given away when the bit-part players in the third act sang mike-free, and sounded clear as a bell.

Then, having decided to amplify, why do so badly something that nowadays can be done really rather well? It was of a standard that no pop group would have put up with for a minute. The voices sounded clogged, woofy and indistinct. With the BBC Concert Orchestra seemingly randomly amplified as well, the sound-picture in the first two acts was simply chaotic.

After the interval, someone had second thoughts and the band mikes were doused, which improved the general balance, but also had the unfortunate effect of highlighting the fact that a few more rehearsals *would not have come amiss.*

All of which, plus the overspill between soloists' individual mikes, made it almost impossible to judge the quality of the voices. The Chilean tenor José Azocar, familiar from last year's Cardiff Singer of the World competition, seemed greatly inhibited, at times crooning rather than singing out, but when he did let fly his warm middle register and ringing top sounded distinctly promising. In the third act Katerina Kudriavchenko's mike must have been on the blink, and her bright tone and agreeably swoony phrasing were heard in their own right to great advantage; earlier, she made as much as possible of Mimi's big moments through the general murk. Sadly, her mike returned in the fourth act.

It would have been a help to have had a conductor more demonstrative and engaged than James Lockhart. He made few allowances for an arena setting, concentrating on keeping his band more or less together and leaving the singers to follow him via monitors, on which his discreet beat must have been virtually invisible. Had he beaten "bigger", the music in the second act might not have fallen apart quite so regularly.

And if you are going to do arena opera, then you need a really strong, imaginative director. This *Bohème* was hardly directed at all, save at village-hall level. A handful of extras wandering about aimlessly is no substitute for production, and there was little suggestion of the *miseria* on which the action depends in Alison Nalder's simple basic set or John Bright's handsome, inescapably bourgeois costumes.

All depended, then, on the soloists using their experience to get through the surface action. Vivian Tierney's spirited Musetta and William Dazeley's inventive Marcello deserve special praise, and Tomás Tomassón's smoothly phrased Colline sounded extremely promising.

Gubbay seems to want to challenge subsidised opera. If this is privatised opera, with corners cut and expense spared, include me out.

RODNEY MILNES

Nothing to prove but their genius

CONCERT

Borodin Quartet
Wigmore Hall

JANUARY saw an extraordinary cornucopia of string quartets in London: first the Lindsays, then the Emersons, and finally the fathers of them all, the Borodin Quartet, formed in 1945 by Moscow Conservatoire students, and still touring the world with all the energy of 20-year-olds.

The wisdom, though, is that of their years. There is no need to foster their credibility with the great cycles. At the Wigmore, the Borodins played just what *they pleased, and* capacity audiences have been delighting in their Tchaikovsky, Schumann, Borodin, Rachmaninov and Janáček. On Wednesday, Shostakovich took centre-stage, the composer who personally supervised their study of each of his quartets, and whose presence is still intensely real in their performances.

The Quartet No 3 in F seemed to grow out of eternity. Dry dance steps from way back in time accompanied a *lone* Chagall fiddler, and joined him as the *dance macabre* reached ever higher in its frenzy. Two scherzo-like movements follow, and the Borodins had the measure of them both. The first takes its tone of voice from the gruff viola's first three notes, met by a pair of tetchy violins; the second is harder, more propulsive in its loud downbows, icy chords and masked viola dance.

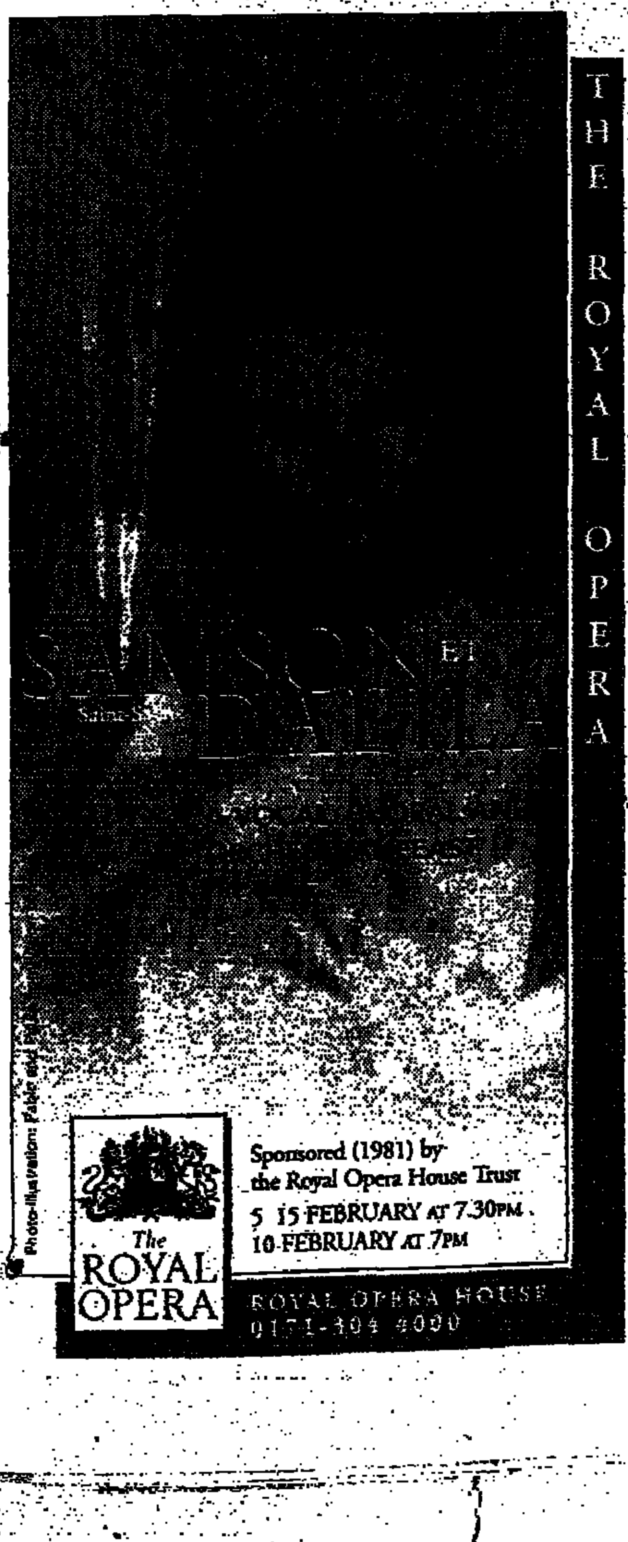
The way in which the slow movement led into the finale showed how the Borodins are masters of the art of creating an intuitively free flow of dialogue while keeping every rhythmic and structural nerve on edge.

The Shostakovich was followed, quite wonderfully, by the original quartet version of Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. All passion had been spent here, and the peace of mind that was left was marked by an austere sobriety created by tiny, tight vibrato, short chord resonance and a pale, sweet song that barely rose above an undertone. Changes of intensity were marked by shifts in *definition rather than by any*thing as vulgar as true dynamic change.

Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* Quartet seemed by now an inevitable sequel. Again, understatement and austerity ruled as tight, brisk rhythms created the lightest of accompaniments to the violins' slender melody. The second idea sidestepped into a sour-sweet dance which gave a sudden pre-echo of the Schubert in Mahler.

The breathing of the great central song that gives the quartet its name was kept just alive by faint vibrato, held in the gentle sway of its light dactylic rhythm. And the final rondo became a real dance of death, a fight to the end, not without a scar or two on the way to tell one of the most gripping tales London heard in a month of quartets.

HILARY FINCH



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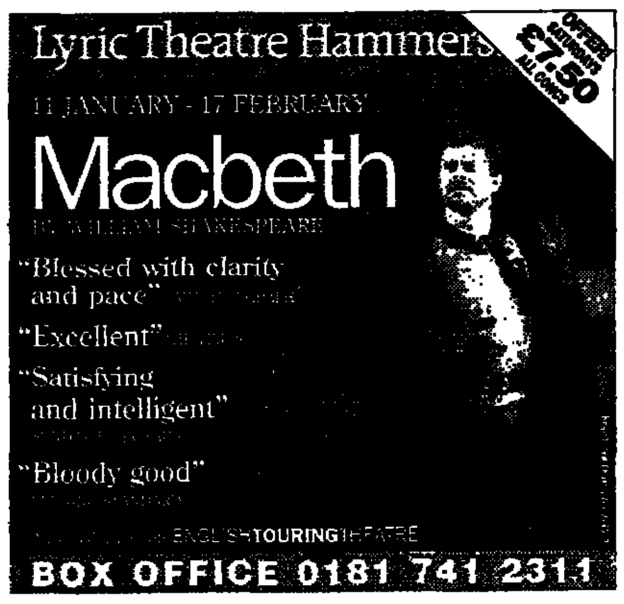

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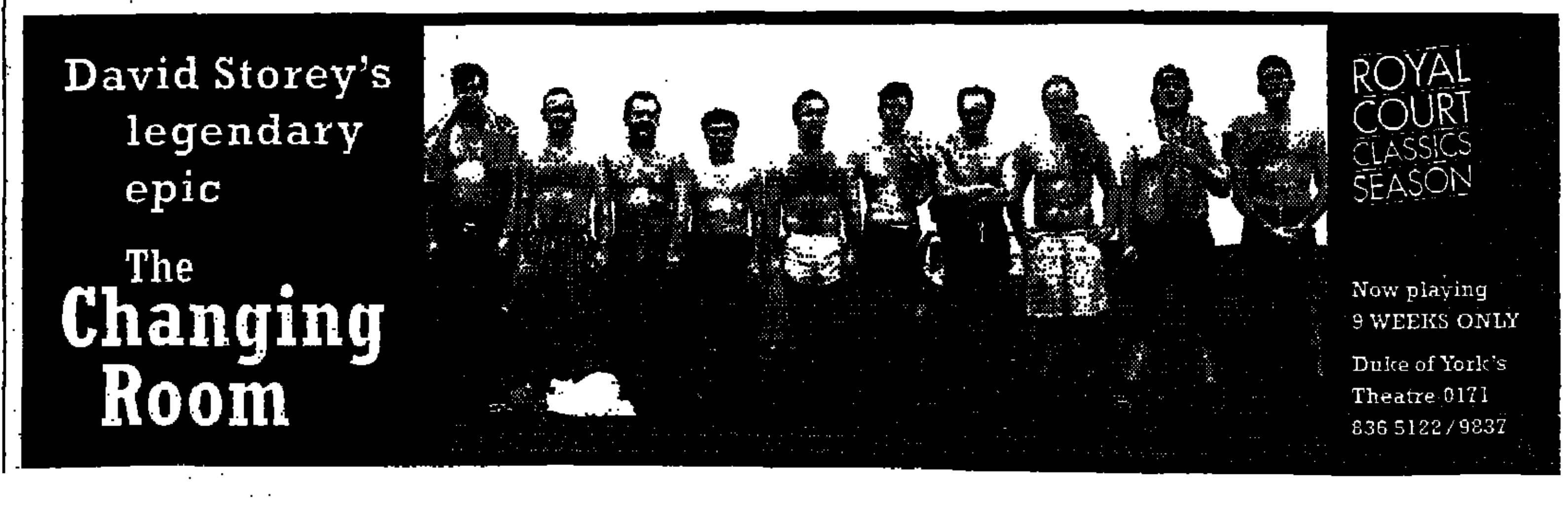

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■ THEATRE

An artist brought to life: Antony Sher excels as Stanley Spencer in a new play at the National

■ BASE NOTES

Restoration, with Sam Neill, will be screened at the centenary of the Empire, Leicester Square

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTES

The veteran pianist, Dame Moura Lympany, pulls out of her own 80th birthday recital

■ BASE NOTES

It's farewell to the Ramones: the punk icons are finally going their separate ways

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** enjoys Pam Gems's lively biography of Stanley Spencer

Of women and God in the corners of Cookham

The Cottesloe can never have looked so exotic. Tim Hatley has transformed its stage into a blend of artist's studio, tacky living room and church, with spectators in pews stretching from three sides towards an easel, an old chair, an oil stove. But it is what is painted on the theatre's walls and beneath its balconies that grabs the eye: a vast mural of bulbous labourers and roly-poly grocers, askew arms and oddly angled legs, nuts and screws, buckets and piping. It is unmistakably the work of Stanley Spencer in high Cookham mode.

Antony Sher, who then bumbles onstage, is a satisfactory replica, too. He never appears with pyjamas sticking out of an antique suit, as Spencer did. But with his baggy trousers, his messy jacket and jersey, his ill-fitting specs, his pudding-bowl haircut and his excitable manner, he certainly resembles the "small, eager man, absorbed in his own interests" whom *The Times* evoked in its obituary of the painter in 1959.

All that is needed is a lively biographical play, and Pam Gems, a specialist in the genre, provides just that. True, she has her overemphatic, even plonking, moments. You are a bit too aware that Spencer's conversations first with his wife Hilda, then with the Augustus John mob, are meant to fill us in on his background and his credo. He saw men dismembered in the war, but still emerged believing that God was to be found in Cookham's sheds and privvies, and that it was his duty to "reveal the nature of the world through love".

THEATRE

Stanley
Cottesloe

That done, the play becomes a worthy successor to Gems's *Piaf*, *Camille* and *Queen Christina*. Though she displays a sympathetic interest in Spencer the visual poet and mystic, it is his relationships with his women that preoccupies her. And it is not knee-jerk feminism, but intelligent curiosity, which leads her that way. If she is to be believed, Spencer was married first to a woman who made Patient Griselda seem like a flibbertigibbet and then to one beside whom Goneril was a blushing nun.

When the sexually inexperienced Spencer begins to stray, Deborah Findlay's Hilda is as generous as she has always been. She puts up with neglect of their children, abandonment, insults, divorce. She is forgiving when he returns, tail between his legs, and even manages to show consideration for her rival. Only on her deathbed does she realise that Patricia, Stanley's second wife, has horribly wronged her.

So she certainly has. A failed artist herself, whose only tie is to her long-suffering lesbian lover, Patricia sees Spencer as "a dreadful little oik" who paints "vulgar and deranged pictures" but might be useful when it comes to meeting famous people or buying expensive lipstick. She proceeds to deny him her body, exclude him from everywhere but the kitchen and, in effect, steal his house while somehow regarding herself as the victim of a cruel world. The wincing preciosity Anna Chancellor brings to the task of embodying Patricia's narcissism is enjoyably awful; but you do wonder if the woman hasn't a defence worth hearing.

However, the Spencer created by Gems and her director, John Caird, is much more than a caricature. As Sher plays him, he is both a sticky-fingered infant who elevates vanity and greed into high artistic needs and a man of great sensitivity and sweetness.

Eventually he sees through his own egoism and Patricia's pretensions, and is left communing with dead Hilda over his easel in common-or-garden Cookham. It is a moving end to a fine performance — and to a solid, gripping play.

DONALD COOPER

Antony Sher resembles the "small, eager man, absorbed in his own interests" described by *The Times* in its obituary of Spencer

BASE NOTES

A film about the court of King Charles II has been chosen for "the premiere of the century", to be held in London on March 7 in the presence of the Prince of Wales. The premiere will celebrate 100 years of cinemagoing in the venue — the Empire, Leicester Square — where cinema first went mainstream. *Restoration*, which stars **Sam Neill** as the king, also features **Meg Ryan**, **Robert Downey Jr**, **Ian McKellen** and **Hugh Grant**.

● BESIDES getting *Whistle Down the Wind* ready for its Broadway premiere next season and writing his next musical, *A Star is Born*, **Andrew Lloyd Webber** has his eye on the cinema. An animated version of *Cats* is currently being worked on at Universal; now comes news that Lloyd Webber is looking to mount an animated version of *Starlight Express*.

● A LONDON artist is turning his art into mud. As part of a major project titled *Rudder*, **Max Couper** will lower his 14-ton Thames tug into 100 tons of mud in Hanover's Sprengel Museum of Modern Art. The idea is that when the tug is removed, it will leave the biggest art print ever made.

● FANS of **Dame Moura Lympany** hoping to celebrate her 80th birthday at the South Bank this month will be disappointed. She "has been advised by her doctors to take an extended period of rest" and has cancelled her Festival Hall recital on February 11. Another casualty is **Rafael Orozco**, who has withdrawn from his Queen Elizabeth Hall date on March 5.

● ONE of the great figures in the orchestral world has announced his retirement. **Ernest Fleischmann**, who made his name in Britain guiding the London Symphony Orchestra through one of its most illustrious periods, is leaving the Los Angeles Philharmonic after 28 years in charge. Fleischmann is not calling it quits altogether, though: he will stay on with the LA Phil and the Hollywood Bowl as a part-time consultant until at least June 1999.

● THOSE punk icons, the **Ramones**, are calling it a day. Disappointed by the lukewarm reception given to their most recent but suitably titled LP *Adios Amigos*, the band has decided to concentrate on individual projects in future. Their performance tonight at the Brixton Academy will be their UK swansong.

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Wed 7 Feb 7.30 The London Philharmonic Resident at the RFH. R Norrington (cond) A Murray (mezzo-sop) The London Philharmonic Choir. Prog inc Berlioz: Ov. Le carnaval romain; Les nuits d'été. RFH1 6.15pm: free Foyer concert. £30 - £5

Thu 8 Feb 7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra G Gelmetti (cond) U Ughi (vln). Webern: Passacaglia; Dvořák: Violin Conc; Prokofiev: Sym No.5. RFH1, Chelsfield Room, 6.15pm: concert, free with conc tkt. £10 (unreserved seating)

Sunday 11 February 7.30 RAYMOND GUBBAY presents BEETHOVEN Overture, Leonore No.3 Piano Concerto No.5 (Emperor) Symphony No.5 THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC ADRIAN LEAPER cond HUGH TINNEY piano £8, £12, £15, £19, £22, £25

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Sun 4 Feb 4.00pm NB: time PETER KATIN piano Schubert: Valses nobles Beethoven: Sonata in F minor Op.57 *Appassionata* Chopin: 3 Mazurkas Op.50; Schumann: Fantasy Op.17 £12, £10, £8, £6 Maureen Lunn Management

Mon 5 Feb 7.30pm PETER FISHER violin; ALVIN MOISEY piano Vitali: Chaconne in G minor; Respighi: Sonata in B minor J. Dankworth: *Mariposas* (world prem); Martinů: Sonata No.3 Rossini/Castelnuovo Tedesco: Figaro from *Barber of Seville* £12, £10, £8, £6 Spons: Marshall Amplification J. Audrey Ellison

Tues 6 Feb 1.05pm NB: time GOULD PIANO TRIO Lunchtime Concert PHILIP DUKES viola Mozart: Piano Quartet in E flat K493; Brahms: Piano Quartet in G minor Op.25 £3 (concessions £1) YCAT Supp. by Lloyds Music Foundation and the City of Westminster

Tues 6 Feb 7.30pm JAMIE MacDOUGALL tenor; ROGER VIGNOLES piano Schumann: Dichterliebe Op.48; 4 Lieder; Schubert: Ganymed; Schäfers Klagelied; Der Fischer; Wanderers Nachtlied; Der Musensohn; Mendelssohn: 5 Lieder £11, £9, £7, £5 Kirckman Concert Society/Sarah Gordon

Wed 7 Feb 7.30pm QUATUOR MOSAIQUES Gramophone Awards Winners Haydn: String Quartet in B minor Op.33 No.1 Beethoven: Quartet in F Op.135 Mendelssohn: Quartet in A minor Op.13 £15.00 (all others sold) Wigmore Hall/Judith Hendershott

Thurs 8 Feb 7.30pm LESLIE HOWARD piano Beethoven: Sonata in B flat Op.106 *Hammerklavier* Liszt: Les Préludes*; The Nocturnal Procession*; The Dance in the Village Inn *UK premières £16, £14, £12, £8 Management: Robin Anderton

Fri 9 Feb 7.30pm INTERNATIONAL SONGMAKERS Song Recital Series CHRISTINE SCHÄFER sop; STELLA DOUFEXIS mezzo sop; CHRISTOPHER MALTMAN bar; GRAHAM JOHNSON piano Early & last songs by Mahler, Britten, Wolf, Berg etc £14, £12, £9 (all others sold) Wigmore Hall/Songmakers' Almanac

Sat 10 Feb 6.00pm NB: time CATHERINE WYN-ROGERS contralto Song Recital Series MALCOLM MARTINEAU piano Voices at Wigmore Hall Berlioz: La morte d'Ophélie; Brahms: 5 Lieder; Berg: 4 Songs Op.2; Songs by Quilter, Dunhill, Finzi, Horder and Howells All seats £7 Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3

Sat 10 Feb 7.30pm VOGLER QUARTET Chamber Music Season Beethoven: String Quartet in G Op.18 No.2; Grosse Fuge in B flat Op.133; Quartet in F Op.59 No.1 *Razumovsky* £14, £12, £9, £6 Wigmore Hall/Lies Askonas Ltd 6pm: Introduction to 7.30pm concert. £10 incl. concert ticket

THEATRE

ALDWYCH BO & cc 0171 416 6048 (no bkg fee). cc 344 4444 Grps 0171 930 6123/416 6075/413 3321 The FIELDS of AMBROSIA A New Musical "A stunning score" Sheridan Morley Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

APOLLO 494 5066/344 4444/420 0000. Eves 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 & 8.15 HAYLEY MILLS "Magnificent" F.T. JENNY SEAGROVE "Impeccable" Times DEAD GUILTY "Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER" S.Times RECORD-BREAKING RUN EXTENDED TO MARCH 16

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

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CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 FAME THE MUSICAL "FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday "BREATHTAKING" Independent Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

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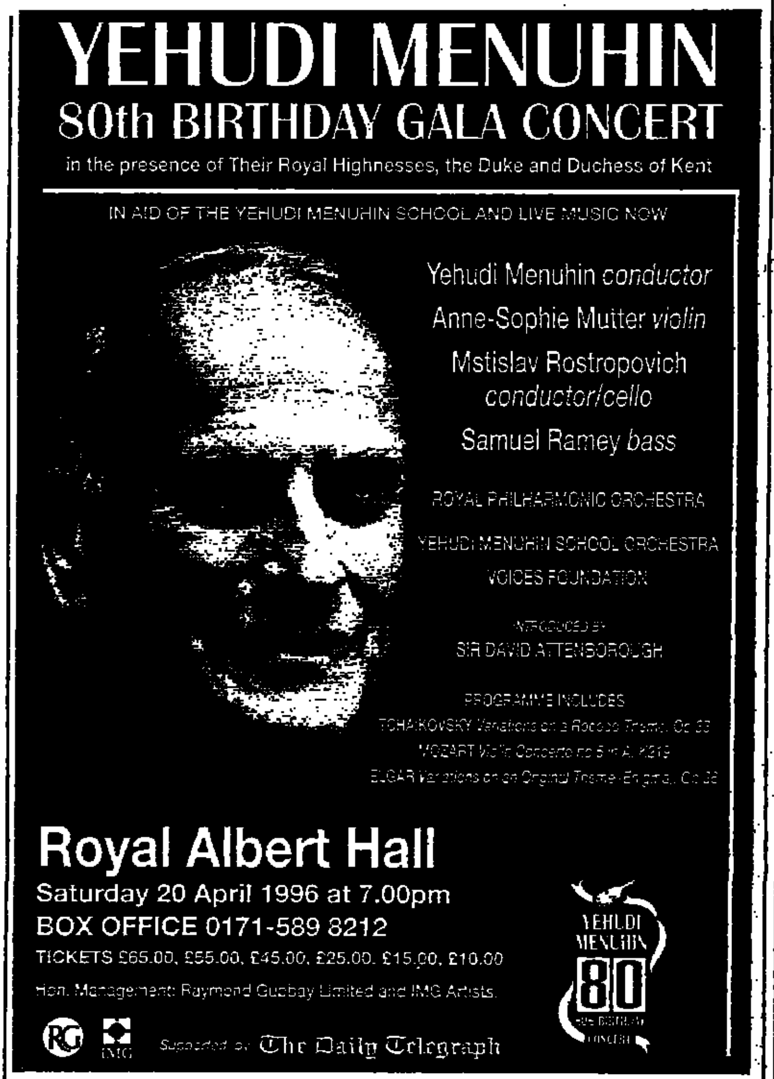

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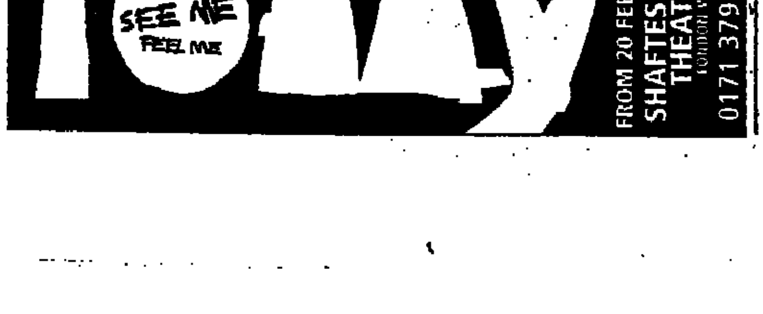

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London Symphony Brass *introduced by* John Dunn Eric Crees *conductor* inc. Bernstein arr. Crees Suite from West Side Story, English Renaissance Music Previn Triolet for Brass (excerpts) Mussorgsky arr. Elgar Howarth Pictures at an Exhibition (excerpts) Tickets £6 - £15
6.15pm Pre-concert talk with Philip Jones FREE to concert ticket-holders

Thu 8 Feb 7.30pm
A Whiter Shade of Pale
Procol Harum live in concert with the London Symphony Orchestra
Gary Brooker *lead singer* Nicholas Dodd *conductor*
Programme to include: Homburg; Conquistador; Grand Hotel; Pandora's Box; A Whiter Shade of Pale
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Sat 10 Feb 8.00pm
CLASSIC GREATS
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS cond. JACK GIBBONS piano
Dukas The Sorcerer's Apprentice.
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Tchaikovsky Swan Lake Suite,
Elgar Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1
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Barbican Celebrity Recital
Nikolai Demidenko piano
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£5 £10 £15

Sun 11 Feb 7.30pm
London Symphony Orchestra
Myung-Whun Chung *conductor*
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Thu 15 Feb 7.30pm
London Symphony Orchestra
Myung-Whun Chung *conductor*
Shostakovich Symphony No 6 Mussorgsky (orch. Ravel) Pictures from an Exhibition, and Prelude and Gopak from Sorochintsy Fair Tickets £6 - £30

Fri 23 Feb 7.30pm
English Chamber Orchestra with Heinz Holliger *conductor/oboe*
Arthur Honegger Pastorale d'été
Richard Strauss Oboe Concerto
Beethoven Symphony No 1
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Sat 24 Feb 8.00pm
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Schubert Symphony No 8, *Unfinished*
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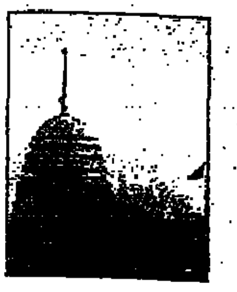


■ DESIGN

The biggest beauty contest of them all: will Wembley or Manchester win the £100m stadium race?

■ POP

It was girls' night out in Shepherds Bush as Melissa Etheridge shared her little secret

THE TIMES ARTS

■ JAZZ

Young keyboard lion Jacky Terrasson fulfils the highest expectations at the Jazz Café

■ RECORDS

The Bait, and other new videos and CDs, are reviewed in the Weekend section, page 8

POP

Secret outing

IF THE proclamation of her sexuality in 1993 provoked a voyeuristic interest in Melissa Etheridge, then the reality of her work must have quickly induced a cumulative sigh of disappointment.

The Kansas-born singer, songwriter and guitarist chooses to operate in a territory some considerable way from the musical cutting edge: her often frighteningly powerful voice exists somewhere between Bryan Adams and Tina Turner, while her style — lyrics full of splashy, melodramatic emotional colours, harnessed to rhythms from R'n'B or muscle-flexing rock — is one rarely heard these days in the British charts.

Melissa Etheridge
Empire W12

All of which gave her an interestingly diverse constituency for this UK appearance in support of her fifth LP, *Your Little Secret*. The girls were out in force with repeated cries of "I love you, Melissa", but the old-style boy rockers were there too as Etheridge and her guitar sidekick John Shanks provided blistering displays of synchronicity.

The noise and excitement levels could have easily distracted attention from the craftsmanship of the songs, but more often than not Etheridge's artistry as a writer shone through. She is best as a chronicler of sexual tension and her tale of awkward adolescence, *Shriner's Park*, proved a particular highlight.

A capacity crowd loved everything she played. "Special thanks to those of you here who aren't from London ... next time I'd like to travel further," she said. All the evidence was that she will.

ALAN JACKSON

ARCHITECTURE: **Marcus Binney** reports on the race to build Britain's new national stadium

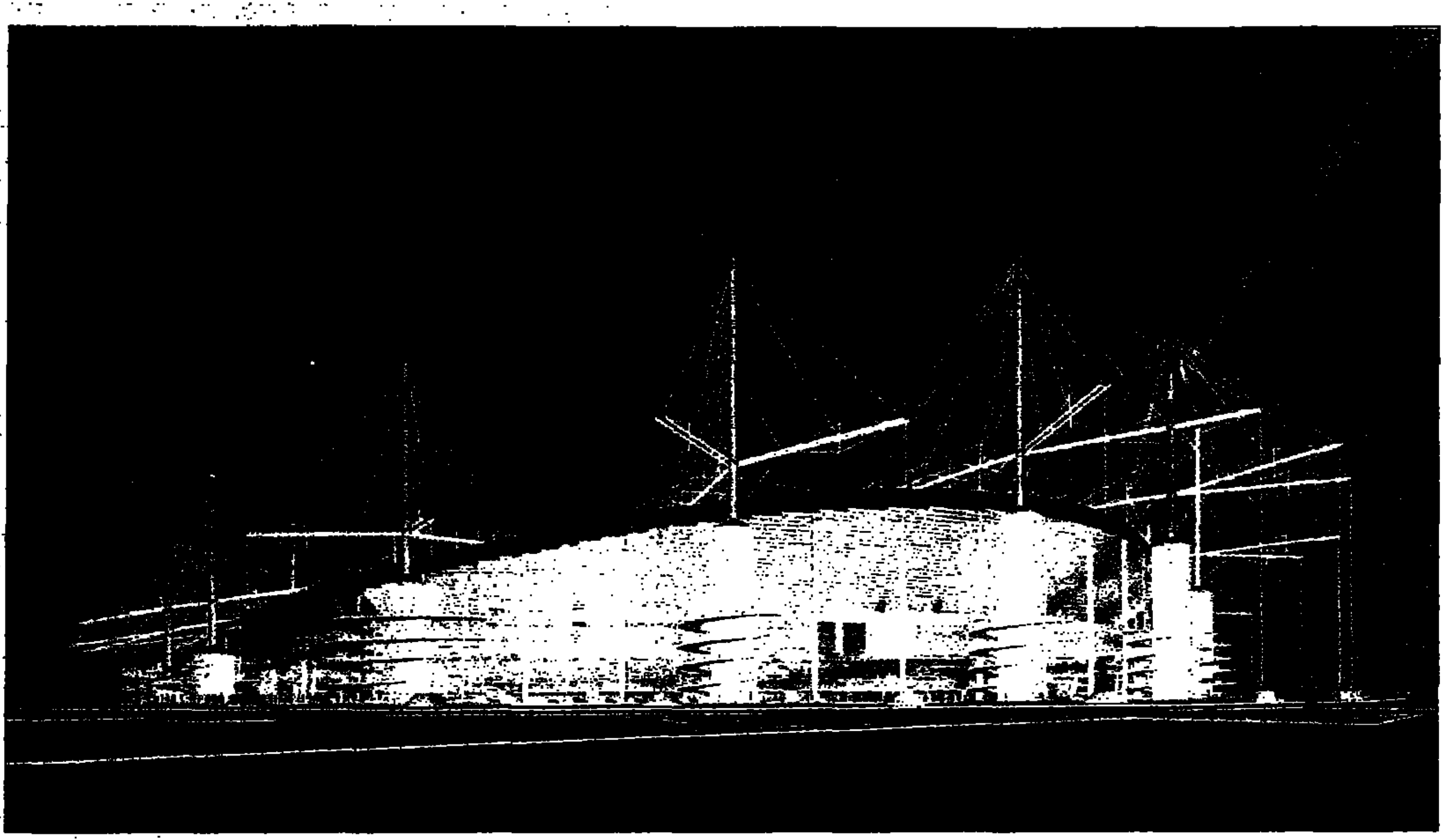
A game plan of two halves

The biggest lottery prize of all is yet to be awarded: £100 million, and possibly even more, from the Sports Council Lottery Fund for a new national stadium. In May the Sports Council will decide whether the venue will be Wembley or Manchester.

Both have a forceful case to make. Manchester seized the lead in presenting a stunning design, while Wembley is, as yet, without one. But Wembley, although a latecomer to the contest, holds the trump card: it is in London, where larger numbers of commercial sponsors are at hand, eager to rent hospitality boxes. It also has tradition on its side: for decades Wembley has been "England's stadium".

The Manchester design began as a stadium intended for the Olympics, but the architects, Arup Associates, even then envisaged uses for it other than athletics. Arup's design could prove to be the most breathtaking since the Munich Olympic Stadium of 1972. Like the ancient Roman arenas, Arup's stadium is on a continuous curve. "That way you have the same heightened sense of being part of the action as in a horseshoe opera house," says James Burland of Arup. "Straight rows of seats can never provide the same excitement."

The stadium is much higher at the sides than at the ends, creating a sculptural silhouette and allowing views out of the stadium at the ends. This makes sound financial sense, as the seats at the sides give a better view of the action and sell better. The roof hangs from a ring of soaring masts. "The structure is all on top, so there is nowhere for pigeons to perch and make a mess of the seats," Burland says. This way, the roof structure is also much easier to inspect.



Originally intended to host the Olympics that never came to Manchester, the stadium desgined by Arup Associates is beautiful and practical

Sports Council officials have criticised the roof design, saying that it will not cover all the seats. "The leading edge of the roof can easily be extended," Burland retorts. "And we would do this in translucent material so that it would cast a much softer shadow on the pitch."

The corkscrew ramps ascending to the upper seats are another novel feature. "A stadium can be a confusing place, so we've turned the access stairs into entrance towers which catch the eye," Burland says. Ramps have further advantages. They are safer for the disabled, better than stairs in emergencies, and provide views across the city. Between events, small service vehicles can use them to reach every part of the stadium.

For Manchester, the real question is whether the big sporting events now held at Wembley — the FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup finals, England football internationals and rugby league finals — would transfer wholesale from London. David Payne of the Sports Council says: "If we choose Manchester the governing sports bodies will have to commit themselves to holding events there."

Moving from London, however, might mean losing the larger ticket revenues that the city commands, as well as considerable dollops of business sponsorship. If it was not able to stage all the events Manchester would not viable, whereas Wembley would be happy for a proportion to be spread around the country. And what is to stop Wembley, which already has 80,000 seats, seeking to lure events away from a Manchester-based national stadium?

A location in the capital city is just one of the key points in Wembley's favour. Across the world it is known as a place where top players dream of playing. Now London Transport is investing £30 million in Wembley Park Station, bringing capacity up to 50,000 people an hour. Manchester has little prospect of matching that ease of transportation in the near future.

> ‘Wembley holds the trump card: it is in London’

Wembley has promised to retain the famous twin towers which date from the 1924 British Empire Exhibition. But if the north London venue is chosen as the site of the national stadium, what chance is there of a design of the same calibre as Manchester's? The Wembley site is a mess, with two-thirds of the original exhibition site now a hideous industrial estate.

What's more, there is uncertainty as to who the real client would be: the Sports Council, which will pay the lion's share, or the new trust in which the stadium will be placed? The danger of design by committee looks ominous.

The Sports Council is insistent on an architectural competition. Wembley is reluctant. A fiasco along the lines of the Cardiff opera house could be in the making. Wembley's best option is to follow the Tate Gallery at Bankside and hold an invited competition. Let the world's architects apply, then select a dozen names and narrow them down, paying a proper honorarium to ensure a considered design.

Who would win? My tip is Norman Foster. A month ago, Wembley invited Foster to prepare a master plan for the whole site at high speed, suggesting a much-needed new landscape road approach from the east and the North Circular Road. The betting is that Stormin' Norman will produce far more than layouts and plans — rather, a spectacular model that will mesmerise everyone and set him ahead of the field in the race for Britain's biggest millennium prize.

JAZZ

Jam at its best

IF THE 29-year-old pianist Jacky Terrasson were to feel overwhelmed by the burden of expectation placed on him by the jazz world in the past couple of years, it would be hard to blame him. Since winning the influential *Thelonious Monk competition* in Washington in 1993, he has received the ultimate accolade for an aspiring American musician — employment and praise from the doyenne of talent-spotters, singer Betty Carter — and his eponymous major-label debut album has received rave reviews.

Even before this trio gig began, there was a buzz of anticipatory excitement in the air. Anything short of exhilarating greatness was clearly going to be a disappointment.

Jacky Terrasson
Jazz Café, NW1

As it was, however, he matched — even exceeded — his most hopeful listeners' expectations in a dazzling display of sparkling inventiveness, leading a superbly integrated rhythm section — bassist Ugonna Okegwo and fellow Carter alumnus, drummer Clarence Penn — through a cleverly paced programme of standards, judiciously mixed with lively but mature-sounding originals mostly taken from his forthcoming album, *Reach*.

The much-lauded technique was slowly revealed in Terrasson's first selection, Ron Carter's *Third Plane*. It was the subsequent hour-long relaxed jam, though — embracing a teasing but intense *Donna Lee* beautifully dovetailed with *Fran Dance*, followed by *Blue Monk* and *I Love Paris* — which allowed the band to parade all the delights of top-class piano-trio jazz.

Intensely dramatic, juxtaposing dazzling exuberance with almost painfully delicate hushed fragility, Terrasson's music is at once wholly distinctive and personal, and at the same time steeped in the great jazz-piano tradition from Jelly Roll Morton to Keith Jarrett. He plays with great sensitivity, but laces his performance with subtle, unaffected humour; most importantly, he is a born improviser.

CHRIS PARKER

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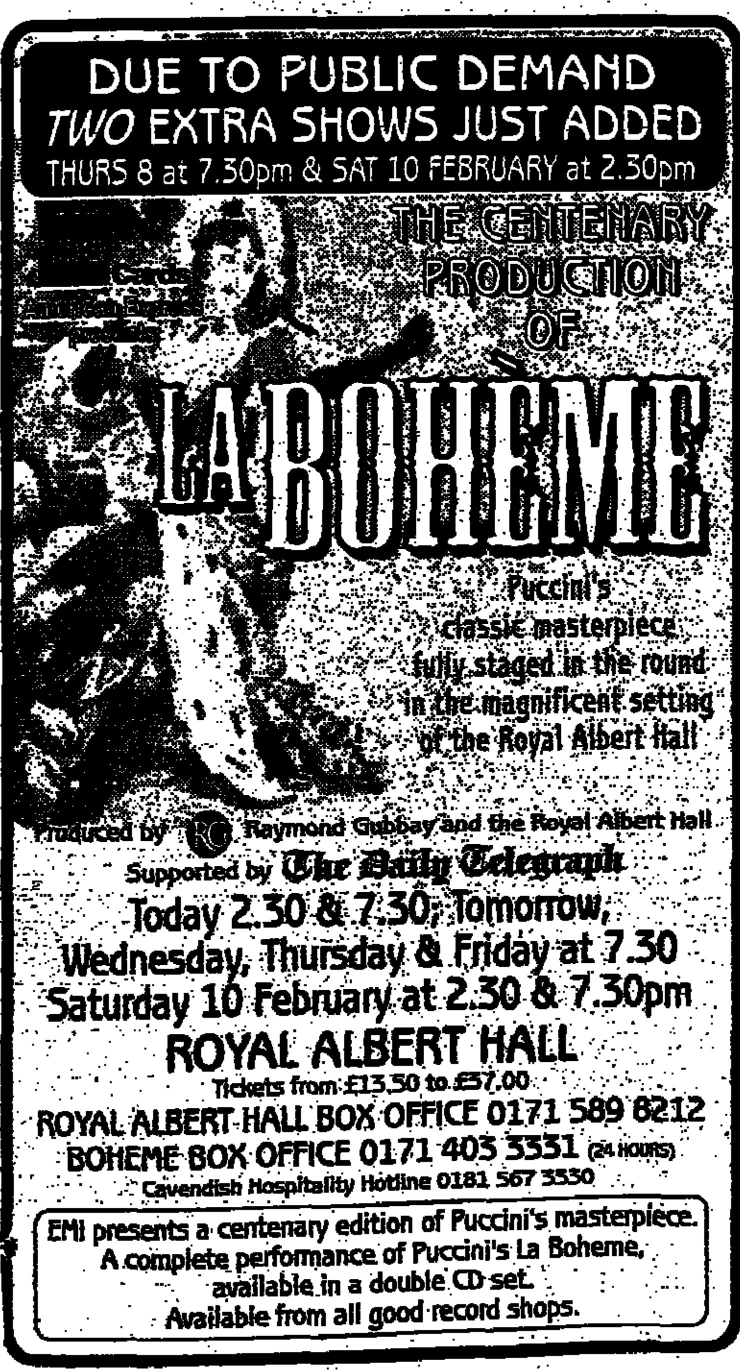

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John Redwood argues that Britain cannot ignore Republican candidate Steve Forbes's radical ideas on taxation

Flat out for fiscal revolution

America and Canada are in a spin over the flat tax. Electioneering usually concentrates the minds of politicians. It forces them closer to the wishes and views of voters. This time round the Republicans are no exception. They had to live down President Bush's broken promises on taxes. They rallied to the stronger colours of *Newt Gingrich and swept to victory* in the congressional elections. Could they bring off the double of winning the presidency as well as holding the Hill? Is there a candidate who can both unite them and win? Do they need and do they dare to offer big tax cuts?

The flat tax has catapulted Steve Forbes into the spotlight. The race up to that point had been a well run-in Dolemobile cruising around the circuit, with a good Republican-designed sedan from Senator Gramm making a cautious start. Suddenly, from nowhere, there was the sound of a very fast Forbes saying that all Americans need only pay a single income tax rate of less than 20 per cent. The middle classes should be given a big break.

During my recent visit to Washington to debate with Newt Gingrich, I was asked about the flat tax. Not wishing to interfere in other people's elections by positioning myself on the defining bend on the primary circuit, I explained that it was not a matter that came up in British debate. Few here suggest that the top rate of tax should be abolished, or the lowest rate of tax removed. To us it is more important to lower the overall burden of taxation. We want to cut taxes for everyone by controlling spending, rather than being particularly concerned to lower the income tax burden on the higher earners.

In the heyday of the Reagan-Thatcher tax-cutting policies, people recognised that cutting tax rates could boost tax revenues. If that was so in the 1980s, could it prove the same again? If we cut our income tax rates further, would more people pay more tax? In the 1980s, cutting the top rate of tax in the UK from 98 per cent to 40 per cent made a big difference. More rich people stayed in Britain. More rich people reinvested and created more income, fewer spent money on smart tax lawyers to arrange their affairs to avoid tax. The tax take from the rich rose as a proportion of the total, and the total grew as the rates came down.

If you move from a confiscatory rate of 100 per cent or 98 per cent, you would expect this to happen. Few rich people are going to stay around without good tax lawyers if almost all they earn is taken away. Clearly there is also a point at which cutting rates ceases to raise more revenue. A tax rate of zero per cent would not fill the Treasury coffers. What is the best level?

International competition has an influence on all this. If America and Canada do go to a flat rate of 17 or 18 per cent, they will be much more attractive than we are for footloose investors, fancy-free companies and rich individuals looking for a summer palace or an investment haven. The Americans would lower the international rate of tax. We would have to follow some of the way if we were not to lose out.

The American debate is also about what incentive people now need to take care of themselves and their families without recourse to the State. The United States is alarmed by the rate of social breakdown. Middle America, finding it difficult to make ends meet in a competitive world, is saying it must have a tax break to carry on. Bill Clinton's State of the Union address showed how he too has to mirror conservative words and deeds, as he squares up to the electorate again. His speech stressed the fact that "the era of big government is over". He looked forward to balancing the budget, and launched a ferocious defence of families in which both parents accept responsibilities for their children.

Redwood: letter from America

Newt Gingrich has touched many chords and a few sensitive nerves in his remarks, none more so than in his language of American renewal. He is out to modernise the American dream and to show that he and his allies on the Hill are on the side of hard-working Middle America, against the politically correct liberal establishment. It was this which swept him to success. It is this which Bill Clinton now has to copy.

More recently, Newt's revolutionary language has upset some traditional conservatives. They misread his message — that a drastic technological revolution is under way. They fear a more sinister suggestion that conservatives are now radicals, that their world is turned upside down and Republicans are going to lead people to the barricades. The conservatives must distinguish clearly. Like it or not, the world is entering a new and more intensive phase of technological change. Hence there is all the more need to buttress not only timeless values but also some institutions.

All conservative — and for that matter, all radical — parties are coalitions. For every new congressman who is egging Gingrich on to further change, there are several traditional conservatives attracted to other parts of his message, especially to his rock-solid defence of traditional values. The think-tanks within the Washington Beltway may be busy drawing parallels with other revolutionary eras and forecasting massive political and constitutional upheaval. The rank and file of the Republican Party, especially in the South, are hoping that there will be ample helpings of motherhood, fatherhood and apple pie as well.

Here in Britain, Conservatives have a more obvious role in acting as some constitutional anchor in the violent storms now hitting the British body politic. We have to make sure that out-of-date ideas from the age of mass production, big government and the Cold War are not allowed to rule by creating a monstrous United States of Europe with a protectionist and anti-American flavour. We have to resist regional government of a kind and temper that could start the fragmentation of the kingdom.

At the same time, we have to show we understand that the information age will change politics, giving people more direct access and influence over government at all levels, if they want it. The passive television with the didactic news will be replaced by a multiplicity of channels and interactive TV, allowing the audience to hit back. Many people are after more content and depth than slogan and soundbite politics permits. Politics by doorstep, public meeting and the leaflet will be supplemented by the politics of the mailshot, the internet message and the phone or cable-in.

It is a fine balancing act: welcoming the necessary economic change that can make us more prosperous and link us to the global market, while reassuring through the stability which traditional values and cherished institutions can bring. We can and should join hands across the Atlantic. The alliance has served us well. Conservatives can and must strengthen it. The investment and trade interests are great. The shared language and history will be important in the future shape of a world in which English will rule. An era of popular democracy can be enlivened by these challenges.

As Mr Blair and Mr Clinton have had to accept, people are hungry for more true pragmatic conservatism, not less. Above all, they want taxes down.

The author is MP for Wokingham and a former Welsh Secretary.

Hemsworth, PR and the lessons for new Labour

Anthony Howard

on the limits of electoral reform

The Hemsworth by-election result has fired a shot across the bows of the campaigners for electoral reform within the Labour Party. True, Arthur Scargill's candidate for the as yet unformed Socialist Labour Party did pretty dismally. But Brenda Nixon's 1,193 votes still sound a warning that any scheme for precise proportional representation could end up causing just as many problems for Labour as its protagonists have always claimed it will do for the Tories.

The arithmetic is easy. Under the present system, if Scargill's candidates get more than 5 per cent of the vote in any constituency at the next election (as Mrs Nixon did in Hemsworth), they will save their deposits. But change the rules and, if they pass a national aggregate of 5 per cent (as prescribed, for example, by the German electoral system), they will be entitled to representation in a PR-elected House of Commons.

Some people, of course, suspect that is what Tony Blair has wanted all along. Proportional representation might finally allow him to shed what Bill Rodgers used to call "the illegitimate left". But he would do so only at a considerable price. When President Mitterrand altered the electoral rules in France — a change that has now been unscrambled — he did so solely in order to embarrass his enemies. He wanted to see M Le Pen's National Front eat into the support within the National Assembly of the traditional right-wing parties. The hidden lesson of Hemsworth is that in Britain, such a scheme could have precisely the opposite result.

But what of the implications for Labour? No one doubts the sincerity of those within the party who are currently campaigning for electoral reform. They are passionate, they are committed and have contrived to give the impression that they are within sight of the Holy Grail. If only their colleagues could be persuaded to see the light, then at least ten years of anti-Tory rule could be assured. Yet there remains one flaw in the Labour electoral reformers' vision. With their evangelical zeal, they mistake a mechanical device for an idealistic trophy. No electoral system is perfect: all are just means to an end.

The Labour Party first recognised that some 65 years ago. It is often forgotten that, in February 1931, the House of Commons actually carried the second reading of a Government Bill designed to bring reform about — only to see its will thwarted by a then wholly hereditary House of Lords. What the Commons then voted for, by a majority of 65, was the simplest of all reforms, but one that has never satisfied the PR purists.

The proposal endorsed is known as "the single alternative vote" — meaning that in every constituency, voters, instead of placing an X on the ballot paper, should give their order of preference between the candidates. This (a practice that was adopted in the dozen university seats until 1950) would not in itself produce a House of Commons exactly reflecting national opinion. But it would still remove the more glaring injustices under our present "first past the post" system — whereby, for example, an MP can sit happily in the House of Commons for five years on a minority of the votes cast in his or her constituency.

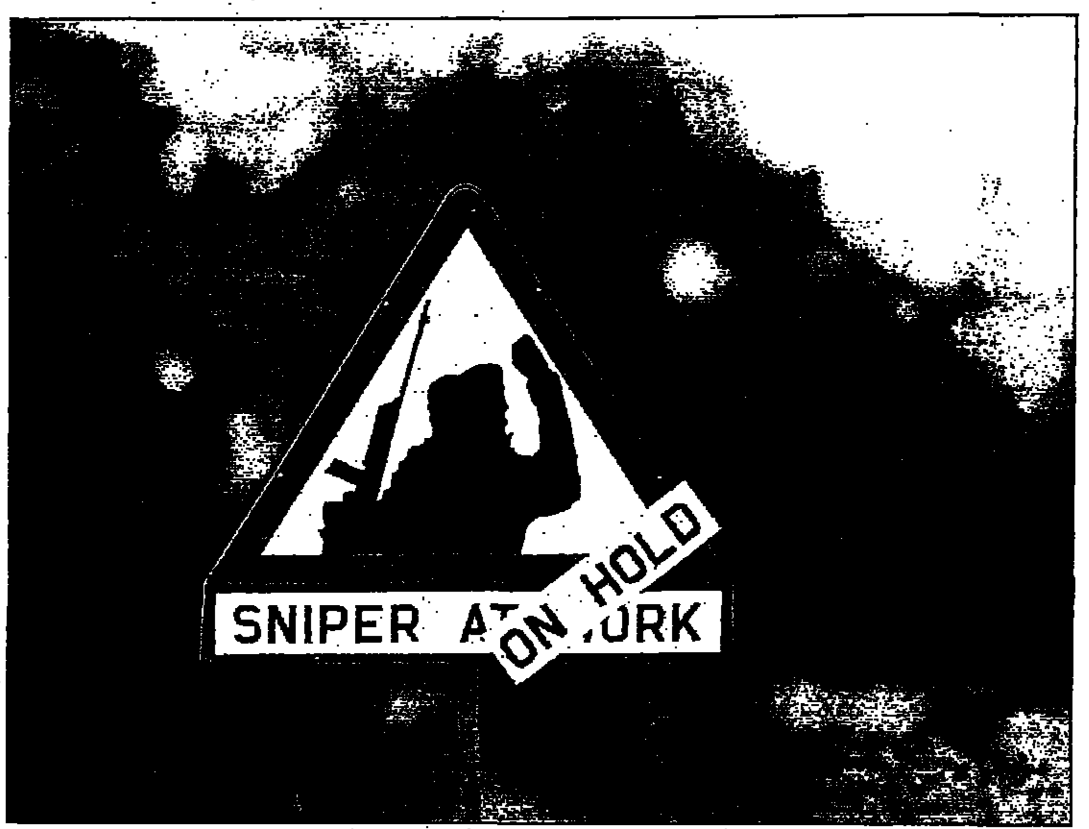
Why, then, does Mr Blair — at least as an initial, modest step towards constitutional reform — not embrace the remedy that Ramsay MacDonald was prepared to recommend 65 years ago? The answer one is glumly given by those close to the Labour leader is that "the Liberal Democrats will not buy it". Such intransigence at the national level is all the harder to understand, given the readiness of Liberal Democrats in Scotland to compromise with Labour on a system of proportional representation for the proposed Scottish assembly.

The difficulty for the Labour leadership is that it is lumbered with John Smith's pledge to hold a referendum on electoral reform at some unspecified date, once it has entered into government. It may, therefore, not want to give the impression now of pre-judging the issue. But that is no reason why the Liberal Democrats should not be privately told that the single alternative vote is likely to be the only offer on the table — and that, if they want to go on baying after a political moon made of green cheese, fragmented parties and fractional minorities, then they can do so on their own.

Ulster's real peacemakers

Despite the politicians' attempts to impose a solution on Northern Ireland, local communities are forging new links

Simon Jenkins



Lest we forget: the official Peace Process could threaten the real one which has transformed Ulster

Ominous news from Northern Ireland. The Peace Process is back on course. John Major is emerging as the most daring gambler in Ireland's postwar history. He has brought about not only an IRA ceasefire but a year of sustained peace. He has induced two foreign Governments, the Irish and the American, to help to curb violence. He has kept Unionists in line through a bevy of concessions to the IRA. He now seems about to win his latest gambit, "pre-talks" elections. Those who portray John Major as a bemused acolyte wandering the ruins of Thatcherism should study his Ulster policy. It has flair and it has class.

Yet the news is ominous. Mr Major's gamble may succeed. There are currently two peace processes running in Northern Ireland. They both originate in the Downing Street declaration of 1994, but they are moving in divergent directions. One has capital letters and is the copyright of Mr Major and his Ulster Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew: it is the much-vaunted Peace Process. The other lies deep in the soil of Northern Ireland and is little noticed. I call it the process of peace.

The process of peace has been astonishing. Ulster since the ceasefire is almost as changed as Berlin since the collapse of its wall. Fortresses have been demolished, even Londonderry's awesome Rosemount tower. The obscenities of communal strife are disappearing. In response, tourism rose last year by 55 per cent. French car components, Taiwanese textiles, seven new Sainsbury stores have arrived. Inward investment and exports are surging. The healing balm of public spending has shifted from security hardware to restoring the landscape.

Nor is this all. Peace also pumps through the veins of local politics. On Belfast and Londonderry district councils, former enemies are sitting down, negotiating and sharing power. They are even sharing the mayoralty. The 26 districts may cut no ice in Washington or London, but they are the forcing house of a new Ulster democracy. Fifteen of them have Sinn Fein members. In five the nationalists have an overall majority. Since the ceasefire, politicians whose party leaders flatly refuse to discuss power-sharing at a higher level are already sharing it. They have moved on. They are the true democrats of Ulster's peace. It is the MPs who are out of date.

This "process of peace" reflects the steady redrawing of the political map. The ethnic cleansing of Ulster west of the Bann has continued. The predominantly Catholic areas, especially the Londonderry conurbation, are virtually parts of the Republic. The border with Donegal hardly exists and Londonderry, on my last visit, felt like a Southern town. From Armagh through Fermanagh to Londonderry lies a sickle of nationalism, a *cordon sanitaire* between Protestant Ulster and the Irish Republic. Northern Ireland is being normalised by peace and its local democracy reflects that normalcy. This is more important than a dozen round-table conferences.

There is no reason for this process not to develop. There is no reason for nationalist and Unionist councils, perhaps after judicious amalgamation, to be denied more discretion over housing, schools, transport and industry. There is no reason why the existing links forged with the South by Londonderry and other nationalist councils should not grow on their own. The border is now politically permeable. Northern Ireland could be a test-bed for bottom-up democratic politics in healing the wounds of divided societies.

The grandees and groupies of Mr Major's Peace Process maintain that all this depends on them. Their way is different. One thing alone links Bill Clinton and John Major, John Bruton and John Hume, Ian Paisley and Gerry Adams. This is a belief that the only way forward is along the same path that has failed for a quarter century, through a swamp of tracks and strands, of catch-phrases and constitutions, of "getting parties round the table", of talks about talks about talks.

To what end? To reach something that can be declared a settlement. What is the content of that settlement? The answer is nothing but that bugbear of 1973, a provincial assembly and a power-sharing executive. Mr Major recently promised that there would be "no return to Stormont". What he meant was the old Stormont of the Protestant ascendancy. He did not mean a new Stormont, in which harmony and concord reign. Here is the true mindset of the Peace Process, the search for some complex constitutional blocking system for a devolved assembly. It is intended to stop Protestants overruling Catholics, to pretend that a divided society can be administered without regard to the balance of forces within it.

Like new Labour, new Stormont would eventually become a version of the old. Ulster's political realities are as yet unchanged, the balance of power is the same. As Mr Hume has pointed out, any new Stormont will revive the old antagonisms, the old shouting, the old storming out. Divided regions cannot be ruled by unitary authorities. The boss of new Stormont would presumably be the Unionist leader, David Trimble. Sooner or later he would lose the consent of the nationalists. This sort of top-down settlement is the curse of Ireland. It emerges from 20 years of colonialism, 20 years of conferences, forums and seminars, of hotels, universities, dinners and receptions. It dazzles itself by demolishing each new idea. It adores its historical repartee, the well-turned quips of a Garret FitzGerald or a Conor Cruise O'Brien.

When I first delved into this world, its participants were young and vigorous. They are now old and cynical. And the dance goes on, the orchestra plays. Mr Paisley still bellows. Peter Robinson still looks sinister and Mr Hume careworn. Mr Adams still reminds us of a dark night on the Falls Road. With each step in the Process, the venues get grander. Those who once stumbled down the steps of Stormont now grace those of Dublin Castle, Downing Street and even the White House. The dance is the generals' minuet from *Oh! What a Lovely War.*

Any revival of a provincial assembly in Northern Ireland would threaten the true process of peace. It would reassert the religious divide in Ulster, rehabilitate the ranters and stifle the emerging local councils that hold the key to peaceful coexistence. That is why the nationalist rank and file is right to oppose it. A new assembly would give jobs, status and patronage to precisely the players whose minds are stuck in the past conflict. They should be pensioned off.

The best hope for Ulster is that Mr Major's formal Process neither collapses nor succeeds, *that he can* keep both Catholic and Protestant extremists at bay by constant stalling. But he must do something. Stalling is a strategy only if he invigorates the true process of peace, on the ground in Northern Ireland. That involves delegating ever more of his direct-rule powers to democratic bodies below the provincial tier. That would involve an emphatic British commitment both against a revived Stormont and in favour of local devolution.

Mr Major is not known as an enthusiast for local self-government. In Ulster it does not offer a glamorous peace. It is not the sort of "solution" that can be boasted at top tables. It blows no trumpets and rings no bells. It offers no *triumph* for presidents and prime ministers to acclaim. There would be no Stormont theatricals, no stormings-out. The media would be bored. There would only be the steady hum of democracy at work. For the doyen of this Peace Process, I fear that would be an anticlimax too far.

THE TIMES DIARY

Mr Punch

ONE OF the country's oldest and best-loved magazines is to rise again this year from the ashes. *Punch*, the 150-year-old journal for comic writers and cartoonists which closed in 1992, has been bought by Mike Molloy, a former Editor of the *Daily Mirror*.

In partnership with his friend Mike Aalders, who used to own an advertising agency, Molloy took over the old comic on Thursday from United Newspapers, which had been trying for more than a year to sell it for around £500,000.

Molloy refused yesterday to talk about the money that changed hands, but said that his lifelong ambition had always been to edit *Punch*. "We don't know yet if we're going to bring it back as a weekly, a fortnightly or a monthly," he said. "But we will bring back *Punch*, probably in the autumn. I was Editor-in-Chief at the *Mirror* for five years under Robert Maxwell. It was probably the best training for a humorous magazine."

Comic writers are, er, *Punch*-drunk with excitement. Our own Alan Coren, who edited *Punch* for ten years, was delighted: "Under United's ownership, it fell between the two market stools of middle-aged literacy and young subversiveness and it lost money." Coren added: "*Punch* must be funny from cover to cover, and I am sure Mike Molloy understands that."

● *The Princess of Wales appeared to enjoy the gala performance of* La Bohème *at the Albert Hall on Thursday night. But drinks in the interval may not have been quite to her liking. She was ushered, for her refreshments, into a room hard by the royal box. It was called the Prince of Wales Bar.*

Punch: fell between two stools

Currie sauce

IT'S SCARCELY credible, I know, but Edwina Currie was rendered speechless on Thursday night. She was struck dumb at the launch of her latest political bonkbuster when her daughter Debbie, a student in Huddersfield, walked into the party with a shaved head.

Mother gasped at the prickly daughter's prickly scalp. She stammered, flushed, smiled like a lunatic and eventually forced an utterance. "Look at her! Look at her!" she urged Grandma Currie, also in attendance. "It was always short but..." Debbie stood firm: "Mum thinks I look like a convict. I did it for fun. I was drunk."

Real mettle

BARONESS THATCHER is to tilt her bonnet to the man she likes to call "Winston". On March 9 she will travel to Fulton, Missouri, to speak at the university where Sir Winston Churchill made his Iron Curtain speech.

It will be almost 50 years to the day since Churchill visited Fulton's Westminster College to declare: "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent." Advance copies of the Sinews of Peace address, as it is sometimes called, had not contained the iron curtain passage.

James Traer, the president of Westminster College, said this week: "Lady Thatcher represents the Churchillian stature of British statesmanship." The numerous Churchill buffs who will gather in Fulton for the anniversary will also take a ride in vintage railcars, following a 1946 route taken by Churchill and Truman. Lady T is unlikely to join them — she dislikes railways.

Heart of gold

YESTERDAY'S article about Lady Romsey's gold pendant with a name inscribed on it was incorrect. I am sorry that I suggested that the name picked out in gold was hers. In fact, it was that of her late daughter, Leonora.

The heart-shaped pendant has a history which began some years ago when Lady Romsey's father-in-law, Lord Brabourne, underwent a serious heart operation. His nurses were wearing such pendants and, grateful to have survived the op, he wanted one made up for his wife. In fact, two were made.

When his son Nicky was tragically killed in 1979 with Earl Mountbatten by a terrorist bomb, Lord Brabourne had the heart inscribed with the young man's signature. Similarly, when little Leonora died, he had her name placed over the second pendant in her own writing, and gave it to his daughter-in-law Lady Romsey, to whom it is a most special piece of jewellery.

Liz Hurley: even more stroppy

● *With all this talk about MPs and their pay, I have good news for Dennis Skinner. His son, Dennis (true), is being tipped for a £60,000-a-year job with London's Camden council in a shake-up of senior management. Dennis Jr is firm favourite to become assistant chief executive (policy and partnerships), and Dad is thrilled. "He's a bright lad — he's always being promoted," says Dennis Sr. "He got four A levels — that's four more than John Major — and he's got an economics degree."*

Fatal femme

HUGH GRANT is likely to keep out of trouble from now on, not least because his girlfriend, the pulchritudinous Liz Hurley, describes herself as "bossy" and "tough". In a punchy interview for *OK!* magazine, she describes an episode in which she considers she should have been even "more stroppy".

Playing a hard-nosed reporter for a television film, she thought the costume given to her by the wardrobe department — strappy sandals and a minuscule designer skirt — was inappropriate. "To play someone real, you should be in your jeans and T-shirt. We had some terrible rows and I ended up too glam in a mini-dress. Weakness can be fatal." Grant would doubtless agree.

P·H·S

TO THE CONVENTION

Sinn Fein should work for peace through politics

A spirit of compromise too often absent in Northern Ireland allowed the funeral of the republican terrorist Gino Gallagher to pass without serious incident yesterday. A cortege of men in berets may be an uncomfortable reminder that republicanism is as much at home rattling sabres as shaking presidential hands, but a difficult day did not assume the dangerous significance it could have done.

Republican resentment with the speed of the peace process does, however, seem to be growing. The show of Sinn Fein strength at Milltown Cemetery and the shots fired on Thursday night at the home of an RUC officer suggest the peace in Northern Ireland is still brittle. If democracy is to take root, its defenders should use all their energy to make the case for politics as the route to peace.

The nature of Irish republicanism makes it difficult to discern the real feelings of the movement's leaders, let alone its grass roots. Sinn Fein is a Leninist party which debates internally and does not welcome public dissent. The experience of splits in the Seventies re-inforces the cautious, and centralised, style of its leadership. For that reason warnings from Gerry Adams about IRA impatience with the pace of the peace process are as likely to be veiled threats as open agonising. Given the closed nature of his party, its president can portray himself as responding to pressure rather than creating it.

Nevertheless, recent events do suggest a genuine unease among republicans. Having hoped that the Mitchell report would remove one obstacle to all-party talks — decommissioning weapons — they felt thwarted by what they saw as the erection of another: elections. It would be impossible to secure the attendance of the Unionists who represent majority opinion in the Province without elections first; but Sinn Fein is not inclined to appreciate Unionist sensitivities. A movement built on intimidation is impatient with parties which prefer pluralism.

Republican impatience has not yet meant a significant momentum for a return to armed struggle. But military muscles are being flexed. The shooting of drug dealers and punishment beatings serve to keep Sinn Fein fiefdoms in line and IRA volunteers in practice. Gino Gallagher, "chief of staff" of the terrorist splinter group, the INLA, was more irritant than ally to Sinn Fein. His associates suspect he may have been another IRA victim. Whoever pulled the trigger, the presence of so many Sinn Fein figures at his funeral sent a simple message, one which Mr Adams had let slip on a previous occasion: the IRA has not gone away.

But if republicans are to play a part in future talks, the fears aroused among the greater number by the threat of physical force need to be allayed. Decommissioning may be difficult; the culture of no surrender is every bit as embedded in republican minds as loyalist. Fortunately, other ways exist to build confidence. A willingness to contest elections to a peace convention and secure a fresh mandate for a political solution to Northern Ireland's troubles could advance matters dramatically.

It is a pity that President Clinton did not take advantage of his conversation this week with Mr Adams to advocate elections as a route to talks. Top republicans have become accustomed to practising their politics in first-class compartments and at $100 dinners rather than street corners and safe houses. The knowledge that the red carpet would not be rolled out at the White House if Sinn Fein rejected the elective process would have concentrated any closed minds within republican ranks.

All parties in Northern Ireland are grateful for 17 months of peace, and most are anxious to entrench it. Republican concerns about roadblocks to progress are understandable, but the greatest impediment to peace is their own unwillingness to work within democratic structures. Sinn Fein has come a long way since it decided to abandon abstentionism; it would be tragic if the party were to refuse to embrace the most important elections of all — to a body which could bring Northern Ireland's people together.

PER AMATEUR AD ASTRA

Whether the fuel be hydrogen, sugar or pure imagination

Britain's latest rocket was successfully launched yesterday. As Saturns and Soyuzes go, it made only a small bang. After accelerating to 450mph, it reached the peak of its climb at 3,000ft and was then parachuted back to Earth. To break away from the Earth's gravitational pull and into orbit it will have to climb much faster and farther than that: over 25,000mph and at least 50 miles out into space.

So this is a small step for official rocketry. But it is a giant leap for the romantics who have launched man's adventures. Steve Bennett, the amateur rocketeer from Manchester, has already launched 12 rockets. His *Starchaser II* is the largest home-made rocket in Europe. It is sponsored by the sugar company, Tate & Lyle, which also contributes some secret ingredient to its fuel. Mr Bennett is competing against other space venturers for the prize of being the first amateur to launch into space.

It was war which first made rocketry the preserve of professionals. Sir William Congreve launched the horizontal rockets that were used against Napoleon. But it was the Second World War which transformed the business of whooshers and boosters: Only the military and the State made rockets, and especially the German varieties. Since the war, only the greatest nations have had the money and the scientific exhaust velocity for intercontinental ballistic missiles and space travel.

But the urge to escape from human limitations appeals to more basic instincts even than defence and profit. This divine discontent and the itch for forbidden fruit are what distinguish the ascent of man from that of the other animals. Jules Verne started *From the Earth to the Moon* as a satire on crazy American enterprise. But he was so carried away by his vision of the stars that he turned it into the first serious story of space travel. And considering that he was inventing the theory of Astrogation, which he also named Astronautics, his physics and mathematics got a lot right. His account of the rivalries and bureaucratic obstruction in the Gun Club of Baltimore, with its immense gun to fire a rocket to the Moon, was prophetic of space programmes everywhere.

Verne even imagined countdown to blast-off, and the feelings of terror and exhilaration in the ground crew. So Mr Bennett is following an archetypal vapour trail of the imagination as well as the remarkable advances of rocket science. For an earth-bound, wingless creature to aim at the heavens is an ambition as old as that of the first philosophers. Now Mr Bennett is back in Manchester working on *Starchaser III*, standing on the achievements of rocketeers private and public, and the imaginations of all who have ever looked up at the full Moon. Jules Verne got it right: "thirty-eight! — thirty-nine — forty! FIRE!!!" Rockets are fired by the imagination as well as liquid hydrogen, ions — or even sugar.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

But teenagers rarely honour their parents

Philip Larkin's famous thoughts about parents live on: however hard they try, they mess their children up. Yesterday's erring mother was Marjorie Vickers, accused of too intense a devotion to her son, Stephen, an 18-year-old with severe physical handicaps, who was reduced last year to taking her to court in an effort to break away from her stifling over-protectiveness. The injunction he then won has now been overturned on the ground that prison would hardly be an appropriate punishment for overabundant love. His mother has still had to accept, though, that the best place for him is not by her side but at a special school.

A psychiatrist might spot a selfish element in Mrs Vickers's devotion. True love, after all, involves understanding the best interests of the one who is loved. True love sometimes has to involve letting go: almost always, in the case of a parent and child. In the case of a handicapped child, it may sometimes be tempting for a mother to assume that only she is capable of understanding his needs. But, in Stephen Vickers's circumstances, this was patently not true.

The most obviously dysfunctional families are those that thrive upon hatred or violence rather than love and affection. That of Agamemnon and his wife, Clytemnestra, must surely be the epitome. He killed their daughter, his wife killed him and their son killed her. But families do not have to end up in a pile of dramatically strewn bodies to be classed as failures. Sometimes parents are bad for their children not because they love them too little but because they love them too much.

Even parents who think that they have worked out a healthy balance between love and possessiveness are usually blamed by their adolescent offspring for doing the wrong thing. The Montagues and Capulets were seen as tyrants who obstructed the true course of love. Yet the parents of Sarah Cook were widely condemned for allowing their 13-year-old daughter to marry a man four years older than Romeo. Tyranny or irresponsibility? Parents simply cannot get it right.

When children turn into teenagers, dissatisfaction becomes their leitmotif. Usually they think their parents are too staid and unfashionable. Yet the alternative is just as bad. The subject of today's profile in our business section, Paul Simons, consciously keeps up with teenage trends so that he can make advertisements that will appeal to adolescents. Most teenage children, though, would dread having a 47-year-old father who could sing along to Blur and reach the last stage of Mortal Kombat.

The best parents are those who understand that bringing up children is a constant process of weaning. Encouraging them to be as independent as possible helps to turn them into confident adults. But the transition into adulthood requires a questioning of the unconditional love that younger children give their parents. Part of growing up is blaming your mother and father for the person you have become.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Sentencing policy: the judges' clash with Home Office

From Mr Neville Goldrein

Sir, It is the duty of Parliament to legislate and the duty of the judiciary to carry out the decisions of the legislature. This applies not only to the general laws, but clearly also to the specific laws relating to sentencing. The law is made by Parliament and is administered by the courts.

In this context I fail to see the rationale of the objections by a number of judges to the Home Secretary's proposals for a mandatory life sentence for a second rape (report, February 1). The first objection appears to be that of a fetter to their discretion which they consider should be unfettered. But in fact their discretion is always fettered in criminal cases.

Parliament always prescribes a maximum sentence for each offence — they are never open-ended — whether it be a fine of £10 or 14 years in prison. The judges do not object to this, but it limits their discretion. I question, then, their sudden aversion to this proposed mandatory life sentence.

In addition Lord Justice Rose told *The Times* that "rapists will think that they may as well kill their victims — there's no point in leaving them alive if the sentence is the same". That sounds plausible but disregards the fact that a life sentence is not a life sentence. I believe that the average term served by a "lifer" is nine years.

The length of the sentence is finally determined by the Home Secretary in the light of reports and professional advice from year to year. And so a vicious murder and a rape would clearly involve a longer term than that imposed for a "simple" second rape with a minimum of violence. If the rapist intends to stop to think it out — and I do not think that he does — it will be clear to him that there is every point in leaving the victim alive.

Until recently the judiciary have accepted their very essential and skilled role as administrators of the law. They are not the law-makers. It would be better if the roles hitherto filled should remain unchanged.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
NEVILLE GOLDREIN,
Torreno,
St Andrew's Road,
Blundellsands, Liverpool.
February 1.

From Sir David Calcutt, QC

Sir, Mandatory sentences for serious criminal offences are alien to the English tradition. When death was the penalty for murder, a mandatory sentence was perhaps understandable.

When in 1965 death, as the penalty for murder, was replaced by a sentence of life imprisonment, it was perhaps understandable that, at that time, the sentence should have remained mandatory. But this was exceptional.

The circumstances in which offences are committed, and the degree of moral turpitude involved, vary widely from case to case. To deprive the judge, who is familiar with the particular facts of each case, of the discretion to do justice in each case, can itself only lead to injustice.

If any change in the law is now to be made, it should be the removal of the anomaly of the continuing mandatory sentence for murder.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CALCUTT,
35 Essex Street, Temple, WC2.
February 2.

From Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, QC

Sir, Anyone listening this morning to the Home Secretary on the *Today* programme, deriding the present system of sentencing as "half-time sentences for full-time crime" could be forgiven for failing to appreciate that the system was introduced by the Government as recently as October 1992.

It resulted from the unanimous recommendations of the review committee into the parole system, set up in 1987 by the then Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, for the very purpose of restoring "honesty into sentencing" and in implementation of a 1987 election pledge. Its membership included two members of the judiciary and a chief constable, and I had the privilege of chairing it.

Until 1991 anyone sentenced by the court could be released from prison at any time between one third and two thirds of their sentence, usually at the whim of the local review committee. All sentences ceased to have effect after the two-thirds point.

Under our proposals, as implemented by the Government, all prisoners serving sentences of up to four years must now spend half of their sentence in prison. Subject to good behaviour they are then released back into the community; but they remain at risk of being required to serve the remaining part of their sentence should they be convicted of another offence before the expiry of their original full sentence.

Those sentenced to more than 12 months are also subject to a period of compulsory supervision in the community. For those serving four years or more the existing parole provisions remain, but every prisoner now has to serve at least half of the sentence in prison rather than one third as previously.

These principles were intended specifically to restore meaning to the whole of the sentence and to let both the convicted prisoner and the public know with certainty the effect of any sentence passed.

I know of no evidence to suggest that this system has failed. To abolish it now and replace it with "real time" sentencing means either a massive increase in the size of the prison population, or a dramatic reduction in the length of sentences passed by the courts.

It would to my mind be a great pity if a penal policy which has been so generally accepted should once again become the subject of party political dispute.

Yours faithfully,
MARK CARLISLE,
House of Lords.
January 31.

From Mr D. P. Marchessini

Sir, Outside Wonderland, it is well-known that the number of people in the world capable of taking a human life in cold blood is very small indeed, and that furthermore this number is not elastic.

The suggestion that a stiffer sentence will turn a non-murderer into a murderer flies in the face of human nature and human experience. Indeed, if the Lord Justice's argument is followed to its logical conclusion, the best way to reduce murders is to abolish prison sentences altogether.

Yours faithfully,
D. P. MARCHESSINI,
Kingsbury House, 15-17 King Street,
St James's, SW1.

Women at the top

From the Chairman of Opportunity 2000

Sir, I read with interest the report (January 30) stating: "The glass ceiling has not merely broken in America, it has shattered." This is indeed encouraging news for individual women and organisations alike, both here and in the US.

In the UK we still have a long way to go to achieve a balanced workforce, but some progress is being made. Among the 291 member organisations of Opportunity 2000, the proportion of women at director level has doubled from 8 per cent in 1994 to 16 in 1995. The proportion of women at senior management level has increased from 25 to 32 per cent over the same period.

By contrast, the statistics available for the total spread of organisations in the UK show women make up only 10.7 per cent of managers overall, and a mere 3 per cent of directorships.

Our members this is an impressive improvement: it represents a real commitment to improving employment opportunities for women at all levels. But before we can begin to compete with our US counterparts there is a lot both employers and employees can do. Organisations need to ensure availability and take-up of family-friendly policies. The long-hours culture must also be challenged, as well as some entrenched attitudes to employment of both men and women.

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH HOWE, Chairman,
Opportunity 2000,
8 Stratton Street, W1.
February 1.

Park security

From Ms Susan Lasdun

Sir, The money to be given by the National Lottery to restore our public parks ("A green and pleasant land!", January 29) is indeed cause for celebration.

I agree with Marcus Binney that improving the security in parks is essential if we are to safeguard the lottery investment from future vandalism. However I question that this is best achieved by simply increasing the numbers of police.

The inner-city London borough of Southwark, among others, has introduced a highly "proactive" park ranger service which organises educational and recreational activities in local parks, and at the same time their continuous presence minimises the need for police. These activities involve all age groups and are proving a constructive and lasting way to combat vandalism.

The rangers programme has helped to increase the pride and involvement of the local community in the well-being of its parks, which policing alone cannot achieve.

It must be hoped that some of the lottery money can be invested in implementing similar schemes elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN LASDUN,
51 Rowan Road, W6.
January 30.

Overcoming it all with forgiveness

From the Bishop of Oxford

Sir, Matthew Parris (article, January 22; letters, January 27) finds it difficult to understand what it might mean to forgive. Yet he himself goes some way towards an answer in suggesting that it is primarily about restored relationships, not an impersonal transaction.

To forgive is to continue to maintain a relationship with someone despite the hurt you feel they have done you. Matthew Parris appears to think that forgiving implies a mental act of forgetting or putting aside the hurt so that it is no longer there.

On the contrary, the hurt does in some sense remain there, but healed or transformed in the context of a continuing relationship. If we share the fact that we feel hurt with the person responsible for this hurt, this can sometimes transform the relationship. The hurt is not forgotten but is subsumed into a new, deeper phase of the relationship.

Jesus taught us to live on the basis of the prayer — "Father, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." This means continuing in a relationship with those who hurt us and wishing them well, as we pray that God does towards us.

There is no perfect relationship just round the corner, any more than there is a utopia. So the only possible basis for community, whether it is friendship, family or wider society, is in an acceptance of others grounded in and shaped by God's acceptance of us, hurt and all. But in such relationships there is healing and transformation.

Yours faithfully,
†RICHARD OXON,
Diocesan Church House,
North Hinksey, Oxford.
February 2.

From Mr R. J. Kershaw

Sir, The prayer all Christians know — the Lord's Prayer — consists, for the most part, of straightforward requests to God; but halfway through the tone changes: "forgive us our sins *as we forgive others*" — and "as" means "to the extent that". So Mr Parris (and the rest of us) fail to forgive at our peril.

Yours sincerely,
R. J. KERSHAW,
8 King Edward Avenue,
Dartford, Kent.

From the Earl of Longford

Sir, Canon Oestreicher, in his letter of January 27 on forgiveness, puts his finger on a crucial point. We know that ideally we should hate the sin and love the sinner. But, if we can eliminate or at least control bitterness and, above all, hatred towards the offender, we move a long way forward.

Six years ago I published a small book, *Forgiveness of Man by Man*. It was not widely distributed or reviewed but no one, as far as I am aware, has disputed my claim that it is the only book on that precise subject available to English readers.

In that small book I singled out three areas of controversy. Can and should one forgive someone who has not injured oneself? Can and should one forgive someone who has not apparently repented? Can forgiveness be combined with a just punishment?

I submitted, and submit again, that starting from a Christian premise one can and should arrive at an affirmative answer in all three cases.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK LONGFORD,
House of Lords.
February 2.

A & L flotation

From the Chair of the Catholic Building Society

Sir, I am becoming increasingly concerned about the eroding of the original purpose of building societies. This was to enable investors to put their money into a properly supervised system, overseen by the Building Societies Commission, and to provide sufficient funds for the prospective purchaser of a property.

Today the concept has changed and the mad rush to merge with banks, with inflated payouts to bosses and investors (report, February 1), is detracting from the principle of mutuality on which the building societies were founded.

It is clear to those involved in the practical administration of these institutions that the lush funds arising from mergers would be best employed in arrears funds, thereby avoiding the unnecessary plight of those facing repossession, and often homelessness.

Yours faithfully,
NONA BYRNE, Chair,
The Catholic Building Society,
7 Strutton Ground, SW1.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Take it, or leave it

From Mr Peter Wood

Sir, Are the English becoming very odd in their attitude to country life? A leading travel company marketing *gites* recently informed mouse-sensitive customers that if they were worried about creepy crawlies, they should go to the beach instead.

Now one of the admirable apartment-holiday companies, advertising with *The Times*, warns in its latest brochure: "Wildlife. Animals, birds and insects are always present in the countryside and you must accept their presence, even intrusion within reasonable limits. We cannot take action, nor give compensation, for the natural processes of French country life."

Yours faithfully,
PETER WOOD,
Newbold Farm,
Duntisbourne Abbots,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
February 1.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

La Fenice before and after the fire

From Mr Gavin Hooper

Sir, As the owner of a flat in Venice I was reassured by your front page picture today (our roof was visible and unsinged), but sad that in your report you described the fire that destroyed the Fenice theatre as "a further blow to the image of Venice".

The sinking and pollution have been addressed, and to a very large extent, halted or indeed reversed. Historical problems of settlement (due to a lowering of the water table) have left the city with perhaps a higher spring tide than is ideal. However, the city has always flooded and thus cleansed itself. The idea of an artificial lagoon to prevent the rising of the water is being considered and will probably be rejected for this reason.

The problem of pollution and water extraction by industries in Mestre across the lagoon is pretty well a thing of the past. Laws with serious penalties exist and are enforced.

Erosion and decay are part and parcel of a city built on a lagoon, and over-exuberant repair is almost as damaging as neglect. In a city as fragile as Venice constant vigilance and renewal is required, but the myth that it is sinking into polluted oblivion just is not true. Nor does it help hardworking fundraisers or give credit to those who have made restoration possible.

The tragedy is that although the Fenice will rise again, inevitably there will be a diversion of funds from other vital projects.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN HOOPER,
Calle de Le Veste, 2014 San Marco,
30124 Venice, Italy.
January 31.

From Mr Iain Mackintosh

Sir, The auditorium of La Fenice was as 18th-century as *Der Rosenkavalier*. Antonio Selva's 1792 design was rebuilt in Empire style in 1836, had the rococo applied in 1853 and was modernised in 1937.

The original 5m-deep forestage, where the singer performed within the volume of the house, was nibbled away to nothing, pushing action and settings upstage behind a 19th-century picture frame and making a nonsense of the sightlines from Selva's side boxes where I sat on my visit last year.

The restorations of the 1748 and 1753 opera houses of Bayreuth and Munich, in 1935 and 1958 respectively, also abolished the acting forestage and moved the performer upstage behind an inappropriate picture frame.

Today directors and designers wish to reverse this trend and recover the immediacy of music theatre by bringing performers and settings through the arch into the house. It would be sad therefore if we either built new opera houses or restored great 18th-century ones in obsolete 20th-century formats.

There is a case for restoring Selva's original interior but less of a case for freezing the evolution of the great theatre in its Thirties guise.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
IAIN MACKINTOSH
(Design Director),
Theatre Projects Consultants,
3 Apollo Studios,
Charlton Kings Road, NW5.

From Dr Roy A. Russell

Sir, My wife and I have visited Venice five times in the last eight years at differing times of the year; during the 20 days or so we have spent there no opera has been performed and La Fenice has not been open for the casual visitor to appreciate this "jewel".

I trust that you are not proposing that it should be "... rebuilt, again, just as it was" (leading article, January 31), without advocating that it should be made more accessible to a wider audience and more positive in its approach.

Yours sincerely,
ROY RUSSELL,
Leckonby House,
Great Eccleston, Preston, Lancashire.

What's in a name?

From Mr William Harmer

Sir, The confusion caused by having 11 Christophers in the Aloeric School under-12 football side (report, February 1) is surely another example of the downside of over-familiarity; what on earth's wrong with using surnames, as was accepted practice when I was at prep school in the 1950s?

Yours faithfully,
HARMER,
Barnfield Farm, Hullavington,
Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Whinge to win

From the Minister at the Australian High Commission

Sir, Simon Barnes is right, of course, to pay tribute to Australian whingeing ("It ain't cricket, cobber", February 2). However, just imagine how much better the Australian Test cricket record over the past year might have been (it was 3-1 v England, 2-1 v West Indies, 2-1 v Pakistan, 3-0 v Sri Lanka) if Australian players hadn't spent so much time moaning. They'll probably be so busy complaining next year they'll forget to defend the Ashes (5-0?).

Yours faithfully,
IAN WILCOCK, Minister,
Australian High Commission,
Australia House, Strand, WC2.
February 2.

هكذا من الكحل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 2: The Princess Royal this afternoon visited the Junior School in Stanley and laid the foundation stone. Her Royal Highness later visited Stanley Museum.

The Princess Royal afterwards attended a Race Meeting at Stanley Racecourse and presented the prizes to the winners.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a Farewell Dinner at Government House.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 2: The Prince of Wales, Chairman, this afternoon gave a Luncheon for Board Members of the new trust formed by The Prince of Wales' Committee.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 2: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Plan International (UK), this morning received Mr Stephen Bingham on relinquishing the appointment of National Director and Mrs Anna Wardman on assuming the appointment.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester today received the Ambassador of Denmark (His Excellency Mr Rudolph Thorning-Peterson) and Mrs Thorning-Peterson.

YORK HOUSE.
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 2: The Duke of Kent, President, the Engineering Council, today attended the Engineering in Action Forum, at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
Prince Edward will attend a luncheon followed by the Rugby Union match between England and Wales at Twickenham at 12.30.

TOMORROW:
Prince Edward, as Patron of the Scottish Badminton Union, will attend the finals of the Hydro-Electric Scottish National Championships at the Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, at 12.45.

Weekend events

TODAY: The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

TOMORROW: The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

Chatelard School, Switzerland

A Reunion Buffet Tea is to be held near London, on Sunday, May 5, 1996. Telephone 01753 662993.

Mowden School, Hove

Mowden School is celebrating its centenary during 1996. Any Old Boys who have not yet received details please contact the Headmaster's Secretary at Mowden School, The Droveway, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6LU.

Horners' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Horners' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr David J. Rogers; Upper Warden, Mr Charles K. Howe; Renter Warden, Mr Jeremy J. Cartwright.

Dinner

Lord Byron
Lord Blake presided at a dinner debate of the Byron Society held last night at the House of Lords by courtesy of Lord Byron, who was also the principal speaker. The Countess of Eldon, the Earl of Ilchester, the Earl of Liverpool and Viscount Maitland also spoke.

University news

London

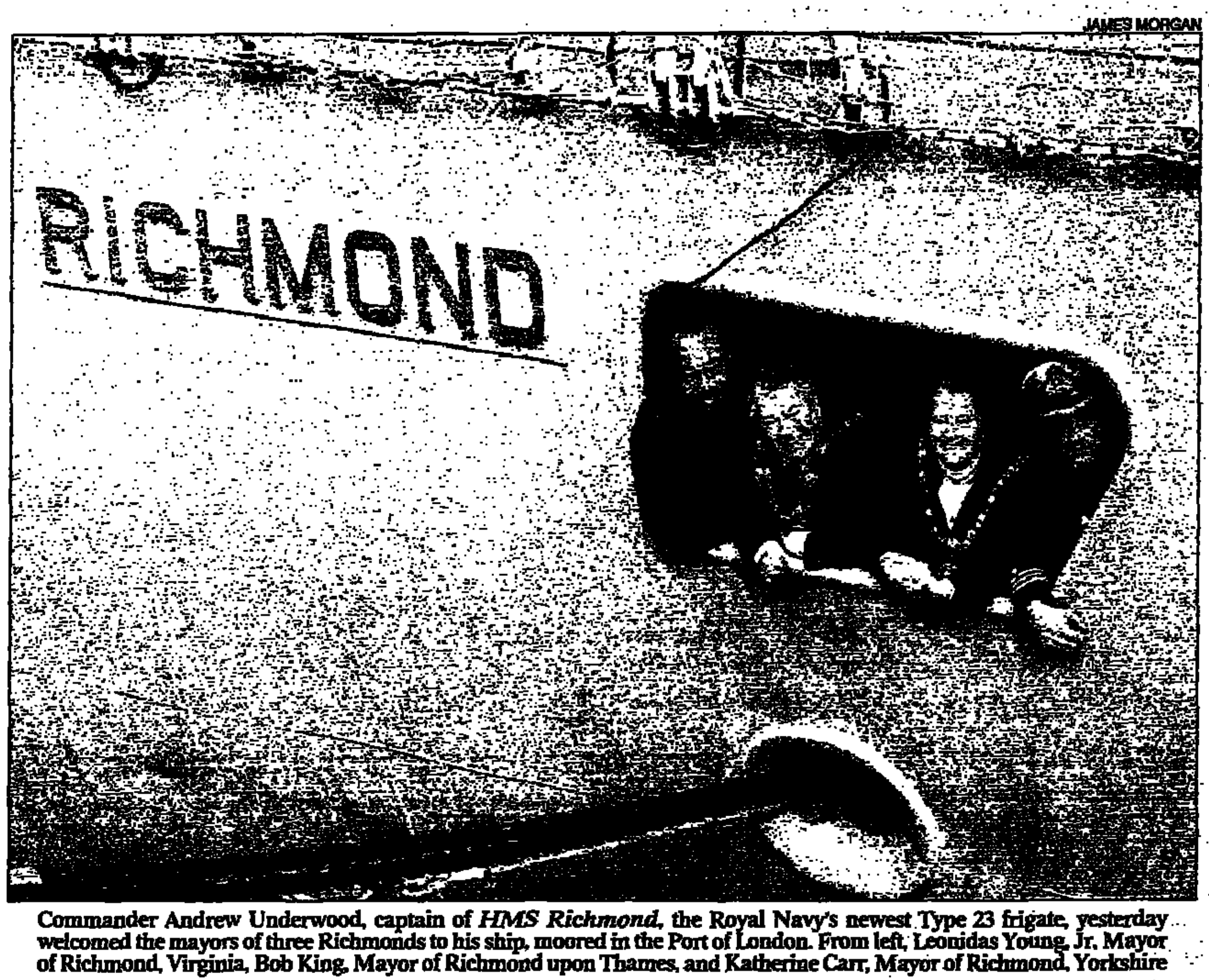
University College
New Fellows and Honorary Fellows 1995-96

Fellows:
Professor Geoffrey Burnstock, Professor of Anatomy and Head of the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, UCL, since 1975; Ms Vera Chirwa, barrister and political rights campaigner, Malawi; Mr Liman Ciroma, chairman of the Nigerian operations of the Union Trading Company and Tate; Dr Peter Brian Clapham, National Physical Laboratory, Chief Executive 1990-95; Mr Daniel Charles Cohen, executive director, Caradon plc; Ms Beatrice De Cardi, archaeologist; Professor Keith James Ives, Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering, UCL, since 1992; Mr Roger Alan Lyons, general secretary, Manufacturing Science and Finance Union, since 1992; Sir Ronald Mason, Chairman, UCL Hospitals NHS Trust, 1993-95; Dr Barbara Mary Frances Pearse, MRC Molecular Biology Laboratory, Cambridge, since 1982; Professor John Howard Ridd, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, UCL, since 1993; Mr Peter Snow, Head of Theatre Design, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL since 1968.

Honorary Fellows:
Professor Michael Geoffrey Audley-Charles, Emeritus Professor of Geology, UCL since 1993; Professor Timothy John Biscoe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, *Hong Kong* University, since 1992; Mr Maurice Hatter, chairman and owner, IMO Precision Controls; Professor Sir Frank Kermode, Lord Northcliffe Professor of Modern English Literature, UCL, 1967-74; Professor Desmond Roger Laurence, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, UCL, since 1984; Mr Hugh Michael Priestley, Treasure, UCL, since 1981.

Service dinner

HAC Mess Club
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were the guests at a dinner of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club held last night at Armoury House. Colonel Sir Colin Cole, president, was in the chair. Colonel C.H. Martin, the Lord Mayor, Major Professor R. Sanders and Lord McColl of Dulwich also spoke.


JAMES MORGAN

Commander Andrew Underwood, captain of *HMS Richmond*, the Royal Navy's newest Type 23 frigate, yesterday welcomed the mayors of three Richmonds to his ship, moored in the Port of London. From left, Leonidas Young, Jr, Mayor of Richmond, Virginia, Bob King, Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, and Katherine Carr, Mayor of Richmond, Yorkshire

Latest wills

Mr Arthur Frederick **Holt**, of Ambleside, Cumbria, Liberal MP for Bolton West 1951-64, left estate valued at £209,779 net.

Professor Eric Barff **Birley**, of Greenhead, Northumberland, Professor of Romano-British History and Archaeology at Durham University 1956-71, left estate valued at £184,000 net.

Sir John Nuttall Maxwell **Entwistle**, of Stone Hall, Sedbergh, Cumbria, left estate valued at £69,267 net.

His wife Lady Jean Cunliffe McAlpine **Entwistle** left estate valued at £170,668 net.

Miss Ida Gertrude **Carroll**, of Didsbury, Manchester, former Dean of Management of the Royal Northern College of Music, left estate valued at £273,375 net.

Mahin Tork **Javaheri**, of London W2, left estate valued at £148,231 net. She left all her estate to the British Red Cross Society.

Recent estates include (net, before tax):

Cynthia Rosamund **St Quinton**, of Sherborne.................. £1,322,542

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Felix Mendelssohn, composer, Hamburg, 1809; Elizabeth Blackwell, physician and co-founder of the London School of Medicine for Women, Bristol, 1821; Robert Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, Prime Minister 1885-86, 1886-92 and 1895-1902, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, 1830; Hugh Sidney Lanier, poet and musician, Macon, Georgia, 1842; Hugh Montague Trenchard, 1st Viscount Trenchard, Marshal of the RAF, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police 1931-35, Taunton, 1873; Gertrude Stein, novelist and critic, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 1874; Alvar Aalto, architect and designer, Kuortane, Finland, 1898; Luigi Dallapiccola, composer, Pisino, Austria, 1904.

DEATHS: Germain Pilon, sculptor, Paris, 1590; Richard (Beau) Nash, master of ceremonies at Bath, Bath, 1761; George Crabbe, poet, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1832; Sir Henry Maine, jurist and historian, Cannes, 1888; Sir Morell Mackenzie, physician, London, 1892; Edward Pickering, astronomer, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1919; Woodrow Wilson, 28th American President 1913-21, Nobel Peace laureate 1920, Washington, 1924; Oliver Heaviside, physicist, London, 1925; Boris Karloff, actor, Midhurst, West Sussex, 1969.

President Woodrow Wilson presided at the first meeting of the League of Nations in Paris, 1919.

The Queen visited Australia, the first reigning monarch to do so, 1954.

Harold Macmillan made his historic "The wind of change is blowing through this continent" speech to the South African parliament, Cape Town, 1960.

Yasser Arafat was appointed leader of the PLO, 1969.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Pierre Marivaux, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1688; George Lillo, dramatist, London, 1693; Carl Bellman, songwriter, Stockholm, 1740; Tadeusz Kosciusko, Polish patriot, Mereczowczczyna, 1746; William Harrison Ainsworth, novelist, Manchester, 1805; Fernand Léger, painter, Argentan, France, 1881; Edwin Pratt, poet, Western Bay, Newfoundland, 1883; Ugo Betti, dramatist, Camerino, Italy, 1892; Ludwig Erhard, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany 1963-66, Fürth, 1897; Jacques Prévert, poet, Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1900; Charles Lindbergh, aviator, Detroit, 1902; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, Breslau, 1906.

DEATHS: Lucius Septimus Severus, Roman Emperor 193-211, York, 211; Antonio Pollaiuolo, sculptor, Rome, 1498; John Rogers, Protestant martyr, burnt at the stake, London, 1555; Giovanni Battista Della Porta, philosopher, Naples, 1615; Robert Koldewey, archaeologist who excavated Babylon, Berlin, 1925; Edward Sapir, anthropologist, New Haven, Connecticut, 1939; Karen Carpenter, singer, Los Angeles, 1983; Liberace, pianist, Palm Springs, 1987.

The Yalta conference of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin opened, 1945.

Ceylon, later known as Sri Lanka, became an independent state, 1948.

The Sunday Times issued the first colour supplement in Britain, 1962.

The world's largest hovercraft (165 tonnes) was launched at Cowes, Isle of Wight, 1968.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J. Bonney and Miss G.C.R. Laurie
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bonney, of West Cosham, Hampshire, and Gaynor, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Maxwell Laurie, of Thornton le Dale, Yorkshire.

Mr J.M. Bowery and Miss S.L. Kendell
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs A. Mervyn Bowery, of Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Kendell, of Smiths Parish, Bermuda.

Mr D.R. Gollings and Miss K.J. Hogan
The engagement is announced between Denzil, son of Mr Harry Gollings and Mrs Rosina Gollings, of Royal Leamington Spa, and Karin, eldest daughter of Mr William Hogan and Mrs Karol Hogan, of Formby, Liverpool.

Mr E.W. Heard and Miss A.L. Tallis
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr Terence Heard, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Mrs Simon Spicer, of Spye Park, Wiltshire, and Alexandra, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Tallis, of Hinton Charterhouse, Avon.

Mr E.A. Leckie and Miss E.J. Skipper
Ian and Penny Skipper, of Aspley Guise, Buckinghamshire, and London, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of their younger daughter Emma, to Euan, only son of Graham Leckie and the late Veronica Leckie, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr V.G. Geake and Miss H.C. Heal
The engagement is announced between Vincent, younger son of Mr and Mrs A.D. Geake, of Topsham, Devon, and Harriet, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.G. Heal, of Teddington, Middlesex.

Mr M.K. Charlesworth and Miss P.A. Clary
The engagement is announced between Matthew Kerber, younger son of Mr and Mrs Arnie Charlesworth, of Firbeck, Yorkshire, and Phillipa Alice, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Clary, of Wallis Wood, Surrey.

Mr B.J. Holden and Miss E.J.D. Chandler
The engagement is announced between Barry, only son of Mr and Mrs R. Holden, of Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.R. Chandler, of Dulwich, London.

Mr R.J. Springthorpe and Miss F.L. Morgan
The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Mr and Mrs E.G. Springthorpe, of Starston, Norfolk, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr V. Morgan, of Gilwern, Gwent, and of Mrs T. Morgan, of Little Mill, Gwent.

Mr W.G. Strode and Miss E.M. Sheard
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs P.H. Strode, of East Lavant, West Sussex, and Emily, daughter of Dr and Mrs P.H.W. Sheard, of Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

Marriage

Mr R.B. Tiley and Mrs S.S. Hall
The marriage took place quietly in London on Saturday, January 20, 1996, between Mr Roy Tiley and Mrs Stephanie Hall.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Eric Littler, Vicar, St Andrew's, Westcliff-on-Sea: to be Rector, East and West Tilbury and Linford (Chelmsford).

The Rev John Macaulay, Chaplain of Liverpool College (Liverpool): to be Rector, St Luke, Lowton, same diocese.

The Rev Ivor Moody, Vicar, Tilbury Docks, St John the Baptist (Chelmsford): to be Anglican Chaplain (full-time) to the Anglia Polytechnic University, Chelmsford Campus, and Honorary Associate Chaplain of Chelmsford Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev Dr Michael Nott, Vicar, Broadheath, Crown East and Rushwick: to be *also* Rural Dean of Martley and Worcester West (Worcester).

The Rev Benjamin Phillips, Curate, Chipping Barnet w Arkley (St Albans): to be Vicar, Bodicote (Oxford).

The Rev Christine Pratt, NSM, Earley St Peter: to be NSM, Reading St Luke w St Bartholomew (Oxford).

The Right Rev Brian Skinner, Associate Vicar, St Andrew's, Chorleywood (St Albans): to be Rector, St Peter's, Iver (Oxford).

The Rev Stephen Williams, Curate, St Birinus Booker, High Wycombe Team Ministry: to be Curate, Aylesbury Walton Team, Aylesbury, responsible for the Church of the Good Shepherd (Oxford).

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr G.A. Allan, Headmaster, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, 60; Sir Anthony Alment, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 74; the Earl of Antrim, 61; Miss Gillian Ayres, painter, 66; Mr Val Doonican, singer, 67; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, 71; the Earl of Hardwicke, 25; Mr Gavin Henderson, Principal, Trinity College of Music, 48; Sir Edgar Keatinge, former MP and company director, 91; Mr James A. Michener, author, 89; Baroness O'Cathain, 58; Miss Elaine Padmore, opera singer and director, 49; Brigadier the Hon Dame Mary Pihl, former director, WRAC, 80; Lord Sherfield, 92; Mr Glen Tetley, choreographer, 70; Mr Frankie Vaughan, singer, 66.

TOMORROW: Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore, 75; Mr John Bird, former MEP, 70; Mr Colin Black, former chairman, Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, 66; the Hon Sir Clive Bossom, former MP, 78; Professor John Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, 49; Mr Jim Cunningham, MP, 55; Dr P.E. Thompson Hancock, oncologist, 92; Lord Haslam, 73; the Earl of Hillsborough, 37; Mr R.C. Hoban, writer, 71; the Marquis of Huntly, 52; Mr David Malouf, novelist, 62; the Hon Mrs Ray Michie, MP, 62; Lord Moncreiff, 81; Mr Stanley Newens, MEP, 66; Lord Justice Nicholson, 63; Mr Tim O'Sullivan, former Governor, Holloway prison, 53; Mr Charles Pollard, Chief Constable, Thames Valley, 51; Mr William Ross, MP, 60; Mr Richard Ryder, MP, 47; Lord Shawcross, QC, 94; Mr John Willan, former managing director, London Philharmonic Orchestra, 53; Mr Norman Wisdom, actor and comedian, 81; the Most Rev Derek Worlock, CH, Archbishop of Liverpool, 76; Mr Matthew Yates, athlete, 27.

Church services tomorrow

Ninth Sunday before Easter

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, When the Lord turned again (Drinkell); 3.30 Liturgy for Candlemastide, Puer natus in Bethlehem (Praetorius), In pace in idipsum (Blitheman).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Teach me O Lord (Attwood), Rev B Gracie; 4 Choral E, Teach me O Lord (Byrd).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, O Lord the maker of all thing (Mundy); 10.30 Euch, The Provost; 4 Choral E, Let all the world (Vaughan Williams), Canon D Galilee.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch & Confirmation, The Gloucester Mass (Shephard), Bishop of Swindon; 3.30 Choral E, Christ whose glory (Archer), The Dean.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch & M; 11 S Euch, I sat down under his shadow (Bairstow), The Dean; 3.15 E, Lord, I call upon thee (Bairstow); 6.30 Candlemas.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, The Call (Williams), Canon D Weston; 3 E, Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, The Provost; 9.30 Euch, Rev J Jones; 11.15 S Euch, Blessed are the pure (Davies), Canon B Thompson; 6 Choral E, Senex pueram portabat (Vittoria), The Provost.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Rev C Johnson; 11 S Euch, O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Mr G Duncan; 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Rev Prof Sir Henry Chadwick; 11.15 S Euch, O Lord the maker (Mundy; 6 E, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Mass in C Major (Mozart), Rev C Gregory; 5.30 E, Purge me O Lord (Tallis), The secret of Christ (Shephard).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Great and marvellous are thy works (Tomkins), Canon D Hodgson; 11.15 HC, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), The Precentor; 3.30 E, Lord, by whose breath (Howells).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), The Precentor; 3.45 E, Great is the Lord (Elgar).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, We wait for thy loving kindness (Mckie), Nunc Dimittis (Holst), The Treasurer; 11.15 M, When to the temple Mary went (Eccard), Preb J Scott; 3 E, Illuminare Jerusalem (Weir); 6.30 E, The heavens are telling (Haydn), The Dean.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Hodie beata virgo (Byrd), Rev J Clark; 11.15 M, When to the temple Mary went (Eccard), Canon J Schofield; 6.30 E, Vox dicentes (Naylor), Canon Dr R Fenwick.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Videte miraculum (Tallis), The Treasurer; 3.30 E, They that go down to the sea in ships (Purcell).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8.12.30 HC; 9.30 Family, Jesus Christ the apple tree (Poston); 11.15 Solemn Euch, Rev Dr M Semple; 3.45 E & Procession, Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch & Confirmation, The Bishop of Warrington; 3 Education, Wood in E flat no 2, Rev C Hughes-Smith; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M&L; 8, 12.15 Holy Euch, Rev Dr J Baldwin; 9 Parish Euch, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo; 11 S Euch, Great and marvellous are thy works (Boyce), Rev N Court; 3.30 Choral E, The heavens are telling the glory of God (Haydn); 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, The Dean.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Ms C Bennett; 2.30 Air Training Corps; 6.30 E, Licensing of Diocesan Director of Ordinands & Installations.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, The Provost; 9.30 S Euch, The Lamb (Tavener), The Provost; 6 Choral E, Beati quorum via (Stanford).

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Family Euch, Praise ye the Lord (Butt); 6.30 E, The heavens are telling (Haydn).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Chancellor; 10 Euch, Dignus est Agnus (Williamson), Canon J Osborne; 11.30 M, What God ordains (Bach), Canon D Durston; 3 E, O clap your hands (Gibbons); 6 Taize.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 9.30 Parish C, Canon C Smith; 11 Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Canon J Sinclair; 5.30 E & Sermon, Zadok the Priest (Handel), Mr J Hoare.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, O for a closer walk with God (Stanford), Rev H Cunliffe; 3 Choral E, Hail gladdening light (Wood), Rev D Atkinson; 6.30 Book of common prayer (1662) Choral Euch, The call (Lloyd).

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M&L; 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Here O my Lord (Whitlock), Canon A Stokes; 3.15 E, When to the temple (Eccard), Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), The Archdeacon of Nottingham.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Dean; 10 S Euch, If ye love me (Tallis), Sir G Holland; 6 E, Blest pair of Sirens (Parry), The Librarian.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Parish C, The Provost; 11 Solemn Euch, How dear are thy counsels (Crotch), Rev A Jennings; 4 E, O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce), Canon G Higgins.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Let nothing disturb thee (Ferguson), Rev I Hughes; 11.30 M, My soul there is a country (Parry); 3 E, Alleluia I heard a voice (Weelkes), Rev P de Lucas.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Teach me O Lord (Byrd); 11.15 Euch, Laudate Dominium (Mozart), Canon D Gray; 3 E, Hail gladdening light (Wood), Prof A Wolfendale; 5.30 Recital; 6.30 Evening, The Dean.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Solemn Mass, Missa Salve intemerata (Tallis); 3.30 Solemn V&B, Magnificat primi tone (Victoria); 4.30 Organ Recital.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, O how amiable (Weelkes), Rev T Maguire; 11.30 Euch, Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn); 3.30 E, Greater love (Ireland), Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozart), Very Rev R Furnell; 11.30 M, Te Deum (Holst); 4 EP; 6.30 Candlemas.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Oculi Omnium (Wood), The Dean; 3.30 Choral E, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Minor Canon; 11.15 Choral M, Pray that Jerusalem (Stanford), The Succentor; 6 Choral E, O thou the central orb (Wood), The Minor Canon.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8.10,6 LM; 11.30 SM, Mass for 3 voices (Byrd), Confitemini Domino (Constatini), Mgr L White.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8,10 Morning HC, Missa brevis (Kodaly), The Minister; 11.30 Morning, Lobet den Herrn (Bach), The Minister; 6 St George's school; 8 Evening, Rev D Robertson.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Ven G Cassidy; 3.15 E, O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce), Rev C Marnham; 5.15 Organ.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8,5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Rev P Johnstone; 6 E&B, Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley), Dr C Rawll.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11,6.30 Guest service, Rev P Weston.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa douce memoire (Lassus), Gardurale (Janacek), Hodie beata virgo Maria (Arcadelt).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 Parish Communion, Rev D Bean; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 9.30 Fr A Meredith; 11 Solemn Mass, Jesu Dulcis Memoria (Vittoria), Missa Dominicalis (Vittoria), Cibavit eos (Byrd); 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Informal (HC), Rev S Millar; 5 Informal (HC), Rev N Lee; 7.30 Informal, Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Heiligmesse (Haydn), Videte miraculum (Tallis), 12.30, 4.30; 7 Mass; 3.30 V&B, O sacrum convivium (Marenzio).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Name day of the Church, Rev Dr Marsh, Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 Morning & HC, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 10 HC; 11 M Worship & Musicians, Rev P Graves; 6.30 HC, Rev P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev S Samuel; 7 Chorale Mass, Rev B Coleman.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, When to the temple (Eccard), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Vox dicentis (Naylor), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Air Training Corps, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Rev M Davenport.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev W Cairns; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Missa Pontificalis (Perosi), Ave verum (Milani).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Williams), O God my King (Amner), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), When to the temple (Eccard), Mr N Biddle; 6 Candlemas Vigil.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C, Scherzoso (Rheinberger), Rev M Holmden; 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev D Richards.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa de Angelis, When to the temple Mary went (Eccard), Rev R Jarrett.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Darke in F, When to the temple Mary went (Eccard), Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC, Rev W Ratchford; 9.45 Euch, The Vicar; 11.30 Visitors, Rev B Schunemann; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Choral M, Mr N Pain; 6.30 E, The Vicar.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Totus tuus (Gorecki); 6 Choral E for Candlemas.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), Teach me thy way O Lord (Morley), Rev R McLaren; 6.30 Ministry of Healing, The Rector.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Teach me O Lord (Attwood), Let my complaint come before thee (Batten), Canon J Davies.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch, 11 S Euch, Missa Ave Maris Stella (Victoria), Senex puerum portabat (Byrd), Fr D B Tillyer.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 MP, Jubilate (Purcell), The heavens are telling (Haydn), 6.30 Rev G James.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8,9 LM; 11 Solemn M, Missa Petre ego pro te rogavi (Lobo), Laudate Dominum (Hassler), Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Maria waltz zum Heiligtum (Eccard), Canon J Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Jackson in G, Canon I Smith-Cameron.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 3.30 Choral E, If ye love me (Tallis), Splendente te (Mozart).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Missa Sancti Dominici (Rubbra), Annunciation (Tavener), Hymne a la Vierge (Villette), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Rt Rev Dr T Butler.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, And I saw a new heaven and a new earth (Bainton), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC, Teach me O Lord (Attwood), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Band of Blues & Royals, Rev J Loveday.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: S Euch, Ireland in C, Lord we beseech thee (Batten), Rev R Buckley.

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From his full store we have all received grace upon grace; for the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
John 1 : 16 (REB)

BIRTHS

BLACKMORE - On January 27th, to Vanessa (née Casey) and Peter, a daughter, Mariella Constance, a sister for Isabelle.

CHAPMAN - On January 28th, to Sandy (née Mulliss) and Phil, a son, Nicholas James, a brother for Christopher.

COOK - On January 27th 1996, to Lin (née Jenkins) and Jonathan, a daughter, Murphy Jordan.

DAVY - On 29th January 1996, to Diana (née Jellinek) and Robin, a daughter, a sister for Oscar.

GANGULI - On 25th January, to Sabina (née Magee) and Ranjan, a beautiful baby girl, Angharad Emily.

HAGGAS - On January 29th 1996, to Emma (née Lawson) and Simon, a daughter, Madeline Kate, a sister for Pollyanna.

JENKINS - See Cook.

JOHNSON - On January 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Laurence (née Libler) and Kevin, a beautiful son, Aidan.

OGILVIE-GRAHAM - On 11th January 1996, to Tinamay and Tom, a daughter.

OLBRYS - On January 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Bozena (née Tabisz) and Jan, a beautiful daughter, Tamara Destiny.

BIRTHS

FOSS - On January 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Judith (née Brous) and Jeffrey, a beautiful daughter, Hannah Eve.

SEARS - On January 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Victoria (née Morlock) and David, a daughter, Cordelia Mary.

DEATHS

ANNETT - William Lewis peacefully but suddenly in Bath on February 1st 1996 aged 86 years. Dearly loved husband of Margaret, much loved brother of Helen and Leopold. Funeral Service at St Nicholas' Church, Bathampton, on Thursday February 8th 1996 at 1.30pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired for Cancer Research may be sent to Jollys Funeral Directors, 7 Windsor Place, Upper Bristol Road, Bath, BA1 3DF.

BURKE - On Saturday January 27th, Sister Adrian, of St Maur's Convent, formerly at Oatlands and Thames Ditton. Vigil reception at St Maur's Convent, Monday February 5th at 4.30 pm. Funeral Mass, Tuesday February 6th at 10.45 am, followed by interment at Weybridge Cemetery.

CATH - Horace Charles, formerly of Barton-on-the-Heath, peacefully on February 1st 1996 aged 86 years, beloved husband of Lorraine and a much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Service at St Denys Church, Little Compton, on Thursday February 8th at 2 pm.

COLES - On 30th January 1996, suddenly at his home in Bermagui Australia, John Newbery Coles, aged 64 years. Much loved husband of Mavis, beloved father of Karin, David, Russell and Craig. The funeral has taken place at his home in Australia any enquiries via John's sister, Jane Sumner. Tel. 01,672.870727.

COWAN - On 1st February, Robin Buchanan died suddenly but peacefully in Ramsey, Isle of Man. Dearly beloved husband of Marjorie, dearest father of Rosemary and Fiona, and much loved by his grandchildren. The funeral service will be held at 2.45pm on Wednesday, 7th February, at Douglas Borough Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Ramsey Cottage Hospital, Ramsey. Enquiries to Corkhill & Callow Ltd., tel: (01624) 813114.

EWING - On 28th January, peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, Margaret Joan of Fernhurst. Funeral Service on Friday, 9th February at Guildford Crematorium at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but donations to Cancer Research Campaign c/o G.M. Luff & Partners, 84 Lion Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1JH.

GROVE - On 31st January 1996 suddenly at home Olive Ruth aged 65 years of Crewkerne, Somerset. Widow of the late Ken and mother of Tom. Funeral Service will take place at St Martin's Church, North Perrott, on Friday 9th February at 2 pm, followed by interment. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for Save the Children c/o A.J. Wakely & Sons, Chapel House, Hermitage Street, Crewkerne, Somerset, tel: (01460) 74647.

HAMMOND - Geoffrey William. Peacefully at home on 1st February. Much loved husband, father and friend. Funeral Wednesday 7th February 2 pm at Dorking Crematorium. Flowers or donations for M.N.D. c/o L.W. Hawkins & Sons, Leatherhead, Surrey.

HENDERSON - On 31st January 1996 suddenly at Braidhurst Cottage, Shandon, Elspeth Lindsay beloved wife of Tim and mother of Anna and Eleanor. Service at Rhu Parish Church on Tuesday 6th February at 2 pm, no flowers, thereafter private.

HUBBARD - Miriam died following a road accident on February 1st. Funeral Service at St Edmunds Catholic Church, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, on Monday 12th February at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Nicholas Hospice, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Memorial Service to follow at a later date.

LIDDELL - On January 29th, peacefully, at Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, Donald Woolfven, aged 78 years, of Usk, Gwent (formerly Consultant Psychiatrist and Head of Department, Kings College Hospital, London). Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Usk, on Wednesday, February 7th, at 10.45 am, followed by a private cremation. No flowers by request.

MORTON - On 2nd February peacefully at Winchcombe Hospital, Canon Peter Morton, aged 83 years. Dearly loved husband of Joan, loved by David and Jenny, Mary and Dave, Eleanor and Phil and his grandchildren. Funeral to be held at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe on Thursday 8th February 1996 at 11.30am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Leukaemia Research c/o Selim Smith & Co. Ltd., 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, Glos.

MUNRO - Elise. Peacefully at the City Hospital on 1st February 1996. Elise a loved mother of Michael, Christopher and Ross, and a loved grandmother and great-grandmother of the family. Service at Mortonhall Pentland Chapel on Monday 5th February at 2.15 pm, to which all friends are invited.

PULLEYN-HOLDEN - Allan Percy (a.k.a. Alan Percy Chandler) Printer, Publisher and Mime Artist late of The Zeus Press 16-18 Church Street, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire formerly of 171 Strand WC2 and 8 St Georges Parade, Woolstone Road, Catford SE6 died peacefully at home on 11th January 1996 aged 79. Funeral at London Road Crematorium, Shrewsbury, Shropshire on Tuesday 13th February 1996 at 10.40 am. Donations if wished to The Children's Society. All enquiries to Messrs Snowdon Solicitors, The Old Picture House, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire SY9 5BQ. Telephone: (01588) 638 425.

RINGEL - On February 1st 1996 aged 76 peacefully after a short illness Sheila, much loved by partner Carl, sister Hilda and their families. Greatly missed by all who knew her. Cremation on Thursday February 8th at 2 pm at Hoop Lane Crematorium, NW11. If desired donations for RSPCA or flowers to J.H. Kenyon, 9 Pond Street, NW3 2PN.

SQUIRE - Betty Norah Angela of Sussex Court, London W2, suddenly on January 30th. Funeral on Friday February 9th at St Leonard's Church, Flamstead, Hertfordshire at 3 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the British Red Cross.

STEPHENSON - Suddenly on Tuesday 30th January 1996, George Nigel Primmer of Charles Crescent, Lenzie. Beloved son of Ella and the late Commander Keith Stephenson, a dear brother of John and dearest uncle to all the family.

VAN CARRAPIETT - Rosamund Hall, daughter of the late W.S.J. Van Carrapiett of the Burma Frontier Service, granddaughter of the late Revd. H.B. Wilkinson former Vicar of Sharnbrook, Beds. Dearly loved sister of Father Timothy Van Carrapiett. Died peacefully at her home on 28th January 1996. Requiem Mass at St Paul's Church, Bedford, on Friday 9th February at 10.30 am. Cut flowers only please or if preferred donations in aid of St Lukes Hospital for the Clergy may be sent to Clarabut & Plumbe, 11 Kingsway, Bedford, tel: (01234) 354547.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BROCKLESS - A Memorial Evensong will be held for Brian Brockless on Sunday 3rd March 6.30 pm at the Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great, London EC1.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

ANTHONY - 1922-1990. Remembered with love every day, especially on February 4th - your birthday. Jennifer.

COVEN - In cherished memory of Rale, very loved Mamma, on her birthday. Frank and Edwina.

FOX - Ron. Always remembered and always loved. Thoughts of you especially today on this anniversary. Daphne, Sandra and family.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

HOLMES - Maria, died 3rd February 1994. In loving memory of my darling wife. Geo.

JOHNSON - Mary Elizabeth. Died February 3rd 1976. In ever loving remembrance of Mum. Margaret and Tobo.

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OBITUARIES

LÉONOR FINI

Léonor Fini, painter, died in Paris on January 18 aged 87. She was born in Buenos Aires on August 30, 1908.

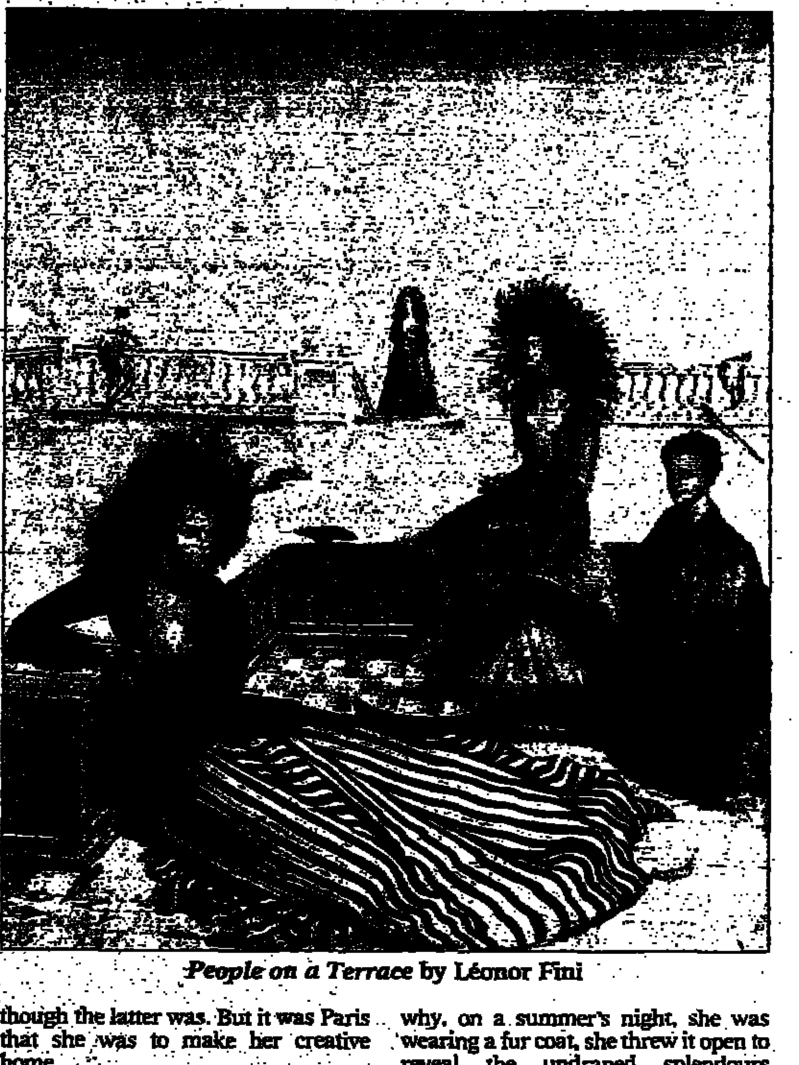
A WOMAN of such arresting beauty that many beholders found her presence even more disconcerting than the nightmarish visions of her canvases, Léonor Fini was perhaps the last link with the Surrealist era. Over the years she evolved a highly effective technique for conveying her sometimes morbid eroticism. Her pictures suggest the *frémissement of physical relations* between human beings with a strange, dispassionate lucidity.

True, she was in her latter years in peril of lapsing into the merely cute — of becoming a somewhat tiresome Anaïs Nin of the paintbrush. (Her whole persona was a carefully calculated art form, designed to overwhelm the senses and silence the critical faculties.) But at their most powerful, her pictures tackle the age-old enigma — as well as the profound ambiguity — of sex and sexual attraction, with the disturbing directness which is to be found in the finest work of Balthus or Schiele.

Although her father was Argentinian her mother was a native of Trieste. She was brought up in the city which, in those twilight years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was a fascinating racial melting pot at the junction of Germanic, Italian and Slav culture. It was the city of James Joyce and Rilke, and of Italo Svevo, both whose penname and his real name (Ettore Schmitz) — make him quintessentially the representative of the Triestine ethos of the period. Fini herself had Slav, Italian, Spanish and German blood in her veins and was thoroughly at home in such company.

She began to paint at an early age. She had no formal training but she travelled widely and immersed herself in the work of the major figures of the period. In Vienna she saw the work of Klimt and Schiele. She wandered at will in the galleries of Florence and Venice. In Milan she became familiar with the work of Giorgio de Chirico and came under the influence of Carlo Carrà, Achille Funi and Arturo Tosi.

It was in Milan that she had her first exhibition. It cannot be said that her acceptance at that time did not owe as much to her spectacular looks and her bizarre habits (much of her life drawing was done in mortuaries or from the corpses of tramps in the streets) as to her talent, undeniable though the latter was. But it was Paris that she was to make her creative home.



People on a Terrace by Léonor Fini

Moving there in 1931 she made her mark with an exhibition of gouaches at the Galérie Bonjean. She went on to exhibit a series of "dessins automatiques et anamorphiques" at the celebrated Surrealist show of 1933 and took her work to the Burlington Galleries, London, and, in 1938, to New York, where it was presented by de Chirico and the poet Paul Éluard.

Clad often in Schiaparelli dresses (the designer could not resist such a wonderful clothes-horse) Fini made sure that her entrance to private views and parties was such that the critics were left with their pencils poised inertly over their notebooks. On one occasion she performed what these days would be regarded somewhat mundanely as a "flash": when asked why, on a summer's night, she was wearing a fur coat, she threw it open to reveal the undraped splendours beneath.

Her lovers were legion. Their names read like a roll of the literary and artistic talents of that brilliant age. She had a (for her) long relationship with Max Ernst; Picasso was infatuated; Paul Éluard wrote poems to her. She then established a triangular ménage with the Italian consul in Monte Carlo and the Polish writer Constantin Jelenski, which endured for more than forty years and provided her with the sort of basis of calm her tempestuous nature demanded.

She was a prolific artist. She was one of the major contributors to the New York Museum of Modern Art's *Fantastic Art* exhibition, just before the war. She also had a solo show there in 1939. In 1942 she exhibited in Zurich. Moving to Rome, she famously illustrated an edition of the Marquis de Sade's *Juliette*. Book illustration was a natural metier and it was no surprise that she subsequently performed the same service for the erotic masterpiece *L'Histoire d'O* by Pauline Réage (revealed only recently to be, in fact, Dominique Aury).

Her style often varied, and she was open to the charge that she used her influences as the mood or situation demanded. It is difficult to imagine the same hand in pictures as different as the distantly viewed *People on a Terrace*, which partakes of her fascination with Freudian dream and inhabits the realm of pure fantasy, and *The Train Journey*, in which the observer is asked to intrude at close quarters on an encounter between lesbian lovers in the closed compartment of a railway carriage.

Yet the sense of ironical detachment remained common to all she did. It provoked an outburst from Jean Genet who, though a close friend, was almost alone among her distinguished contemporaries in daring to voice something less than total admiration of her work. In his now celebrated *Lettre à Léonor Fini* of 1950 he berated her bitterly for the lack of engagement he felt when looking at her pictures. "Why" he expostulated to her, "should I work myself up about an art which does not touch me . . . which contains only those same, unending elements of despair and mortuary desolation?"

The world has not agreed with his verdict, and nor did she. She carried on painting with even greater zest. Her unflagging creative energy was one of her most remarkable characteristics. From book illustration she branched out into set and costume design. Among her earlier efforts in this direction was the ballet *Les Demoiselles de la nuit* (1948), by Jean Anouilh, with music from Jean Françaix. Her own ballet, *Le Rêve de Léonor Fini* (1949) was choreographed by Frederick Ashton to music by Benjamin Britten. She also designed film sets: Castellani's *Roméo et Juliette* (1952) and John Houston's *A Walk with Love and Death* (1968) among them. Her work for the stage included the design for a production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Ernest* in 1955.

Never marrying, and with no children from any of her liaisons, she latterly divided her time between her Paris flat and a house on a quiet stretch of the River Loire.

JULIAN HILL

Julian Werner Hill, research chemist who discovered nylon, died in Hockessin, Delaware, on January 28 aged 91. He was born in St Louis, Missouri, on September 4, 1904.

NYLON, the synthetic material that revolutionised everything from women's stockings to parachutes, ropes, fishing line, carpets and toothbrushes, may have been one of the most valuable patents ever filed by Du Pont, the American company in whose laboratory the discovery was made. But Julian Hill, the young researcher who made the crucial breakthrough in 1930, received no reward and little credit for his work. Du Pont company policy compelled new employees to sign away their patent rights to all discoveries. On instructions of the legal department, his name did not even appear on the final patent application for nylon, made in 1937.

That honour went to Wallace Carothers, the head of Hill's department. Carothers had by some accounts pooh-poohed the importance of his young assistant's accidental discovery that a particular mixture of carbon- and alcohol-based molecules, plus water, could become a strong and silky thread when stretched at room temperature. What Hill had invented was a process known as "cold drawing," which oriented the molecules into a long linear chain and fostered strong bonding between them. It was ultimately to produce a material stronger than steel by weight, and almost inflammable: nylon.

But Hill's initial material had a low melting point and was unsuitable for textile applications. Du Pont, which was looking for an artificial substitute for silk, echoed Carothers' initial lack of interest, though the two men did produce papers at the 1931 meeting of the American Chemical Society, since hailed as the first public discussion of the nylon research programme. It was in 1934, when Carothers was persuaded to repeat the experiment using polyamides, that progress was renewed.

Carothers, who had a history of manic depression, committed suicide by swallowing poison at the age of 41, only three weeks after the patent application was filed. He and Hill had been close friends, jointly publishing many papers in technical journals. According to his widow Carothers always felt that Hill had not received sufficient credit for his pioneering work.

The first nylon stockings went on sale in the United States in 1938, although the name was not coined until the New York World's Fair the following year. Although production of stockings was reduced in succeeding years as the material was diverted to use in war materials, they became an influential form of currency for American forces stationed in Britain. After the Second World War nylon swept the hosiery market, and its other uses expanded exponentially.

Hill, meanwhile, continued a quiet career in Du Pont's research laboratories, which he had joined in 1928 after gaining his PhD in organic chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He retired in 1964 and became head of Du Pont's philanthropic foundation, the Crystal Trust.

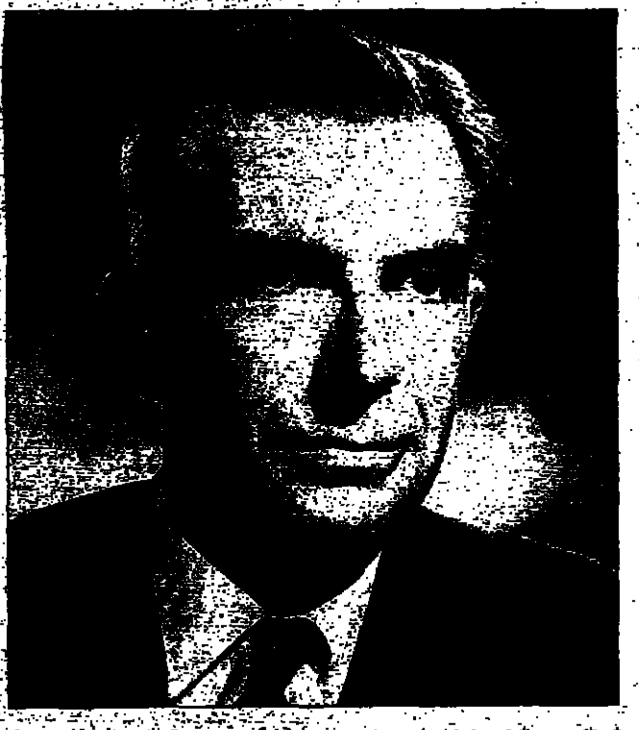
Julian Hill is survived by Polly, his wife of 62 years, and by two sons and one daughter.

PETER BROOKS

***Peter Brooks*, aeronautical engineer and author, died on January 17 aged 76. He was born on January 8, 1920.**

IN A long and varied career devoted to aviation there were few aspects of flying, either military or civil, to which Peter Brooks did not bring his experience and expertise. Starting as an aeronautical engineer and then learning to fly, he went on to become a crack glider pilot before gaining one of the earliest helicopter pilot's licences. In the Fleet Air Arm during the war he flew combat patrols from aircraft carriers over Atlantic and Arctic convoys, before becoming a test pilot for a whole range of naval aircraft.

After the war, as an executive of British European Airways, he oversaw the introduction of the first turboprop and jet airliners into British airline service, before switching to a very different sphere, the Beagle light aircraft company. In addition to this, over the last twenty or so years of his life he had been a prolific writer, and through a succession of books he was able to make his experience and encyclopaedic knowledge a permanent part of aviation historiography.



Peter Wright Brooks was born at Teddington, Middlesex, educated at Chillon College, Switzerland, and the City and Guilds Engineering College of London University. He learnt to fly in 1938 at the London Air Park Flying Club and went on to gain the full range of gliding certificates, including the much coveted Silver C soaring certificate. Later, he was to hold one of the early British helicopter pilot licences.

In 1940 he joined the staff of *The Aeroplane* magazine and at the same time became air correspondent of the *Manchester Evening News*. This combination of writing and "hands on" skills enabled him to make what was to be a wide-ranging contribution to British and world aviation. When war began, he also found himself devoting much time to lecturing on aircraft recognition, a more important topic than it may sound at this distance, given the propensity of anti-aircraft gunners to blaze away at everything that flew (and, for that matter, the tendency of naval fighter-bomber crews to mistake British cruisers for German battleships). But in 1941 Brooks joined the Fleet Air Arm, flying sorties in antiquated Fairey Swordfish biplanes on Atlantic and Arctic convoys. Next he became a test pilot for the Royal Navy's British and American aircraft, exacting work which took him to the US, Canada, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

In 1947 he joined the Ministry of Civil Aviation as a technical officer engaged on future plans, while spending his weekends as an instructor and glider-tug pilot at the Surrey Gliding Club. In 1950 he went to British European Airways as, successively, assistant to the chief executive, Peter Masefield, and the chairman, Lord Douglas. He was then made BEA's fleet planning manager during the introduction into service of the highly successful prop-jet Vickers Viscount airliner and its successor, the Vanguard, as well as for the turbo-jet Comet IVb.

From BEA he moved to Beagle Aircraft where he stayed from 1961 to 1968, first as deputy and then as joint managing director. There he brought into service new British light aircraft such as the B206, the Bassett, the Pup and the Beagle/Scottish Aviation Bulldog which followed the Tiger Moth as the primary training aircraft for the RAF and the Swedish Army.

As manager for international collaboration with the British Aircraft Corporation and then British Aerospace, between 1968 and 1984, he travelled extensively overseas promoting the export of the Viscount, the BAC One-Eleven and the VC10.

With half a century of flying behind him on more than 150 types of aircraft, Peter Brooks remained at the centre of British light aircraft and helicopter affairs up to the mid-1980s. In 1985 he was invited to Washington for two years as the first International Fellow of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum where he specialised on research into the history of rotary-wing aircraft.

His books, published in the UK and the US, illustrate the range of his knowledge. They include *The Modern Airliner* (1961), *Historic Airships* (1979), *The World's Sailplanes* (1980), *Flight Through The Ages* (1984), *Cierva Autogiros* (1988) and *Zeppelin Rigid Airships (1893-1940)* (1992). A long-time Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, he was for many years a valued lecturer at its annual air transport training courses.

A skilled and practical aviator, but also a quiet and studious gentle man, devoted to his family, Peter Brooks married Patty Thomson of Vancouver in 1951. She survives him with their son and daughter.

BEN TART

Ben Tart, coxswain of the Dungeness lifeboat, died on January 15 aged 81. He was born on January 5, 1915.

BEN TART was a member of one of the two families — the Tarts and the Oillers — which had manned the Dungeness lifeboat for generations. He joined the crew in his early twenties and remained with it for almost forty years, 22 of them in the capacity of coxswain. During that time the lifeboat was launched on 393 occasions, with the saving of 152 lives.

Dungeness is a remote community, poised on the edge of a busy shipping lane. Many of the collisions in the Channel are caused by bad weather and fog. For this reason, Tart enjoined his crew not just to watch with their eyes but to sniff out an accident with their noses. A collision could often be more easily detected from the resulting oil spillage than by the spectacle of wreckage.

The Tart family was thought to be of Huguenot descent, and the women as well as the men of the family traditionally helped to launch the lifeboat. Ben Tart was educated in Dungeness, and then became a fisherman, mainly drifting and trawling, like his father and grandfather before him. In 1935 he joined the crew of the Dungeness lifeboat, the 41ft Watson beach class lifeboat *Charles Cooper Henderson*. During the war, Tart volunteered for the Royal Navy, but was asked to carry on where he was, fishing being a reserved occupation. Afterwards, in 1946, he was appointed bowman of the lifeboat and five years later second coxswain. He became coxswain 22 years later in 1965, and retired ten years after that to make way for the promotion of his second coxswain, Honker Haines.

Ben Tart and his wife Doris with the Dungeness lifeboat *Mabel E. Holland*

In 1974 he was awarded the RNLI's silver medal for gallantry for one particularly remarkable rescue. It was February, and conditions were appalling, with driving hurricane-force winds making the attempt particularly hazardous. The seas were breaking on the beach in such a way that the launchers had to be roped together when placing the skids to prevent their being washed away. The lifeboat — the *Mabel E. Holland* — was thrown heavily on to the beach and was launched with the greatest difficulty. It was known that there was a badly injured man on board the motor vessel *Merc Texco*.

Tart somehow manoeuvred the lifeboat alongside the motor vessel with winds exceeding 70 knots and with seas more than 50ft high. The ship's head was paying off the whole time, making it extremely dangerous for the lifeboat which suffered damage to stanchions and bulwarks. Nevertheless, a stretcher was passed and the first-aider, Peter Thomas, succeeded in boarding the motor vessel. The injured man was transferred to the lifeboat. He was then strapped down in the cabin and held by three crew members. The injured man was eventually landed safely. Tart was awarded not only the silver medal but the Maud Smith Award for the bravest act of lifesaving that year.

Ben Tart's wife Doris, whom he married in 1942, was the daughter of the lifeboat's coxwain for 31 years, 1916-47, Douglas Oiller. She survives him. There were no children of the marriage.

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ON THIS DAY

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Anatole Deibler, head executioner to the French Republic, was said to boast that he had not an enemy in the world; no doubt — not in this world.

DEATH OF MONSIEUR DE PARIS

MAN WHO EXECUTED 400

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, FEB. 2

Anatole Deibler, otherwise known as "Monsieur de Paris" and "The executor of high works," who for 40 years had been Head Executioner to the French Republic, died suddenly at the age of 75 after a heart attack while he was entering an Underground station to-day. He was to have carried out an execution at Rennes, in Brittany, to-morrow at dawn.

A mild-mannered little man, with typical Gallic moustachios and "Imperial," Deibler had long been a legendary figure, both by reason of his many years of service and the fact that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him had held the same high office, the first of the Deibler dynasty having succeeded to the renowned Sansons. In his private life he was a devoted husband and father, and one of the great sorrows of his existence was the death at the early age of five of his only son, to whom he looked as the heir of a great family tradition. He found some consolation, however, in the justifiable hope that his principal assistant, a nephew named Obrecht, would succeed him and thus maintain the hereditary principle.

Deibler acted as assistant to his father, who retired in 1899 after his 169th execution, and was duly appointed in his place. During his active career he dispatched over 400 criminals, among them Landru and other outstanding personalities, with his *bois de justice*, as the guillotine is commonly called. He fell on lean days in 1906 when, in anticipation of the passage of a Bill abolishing the death penalty, the Budget Committee of the Chamber suppressed the funds available for his office. After 42 months of inactivity, during which time he was obliged to maintain at his own expense the two grisly machines in his possession—they were always beautifully kept—he came into his own again, when the reprieve of a particularly brutal murderer swung public opinion in the other direction, and heads once more began to fall. It is not true that his revenue was on a *per capita* basis, his allowance being fixed at 18,000 francs a year.

Deibler was particularly conservative in his habits, and was faithful to the end to the horse-driven cart in which he transported his grim apparatus to and from the railway station. This did not, however, mean that he was insensible to progress. Indeed, he made many improvements to his guillotines, and proudly claimed that he had beaten all records for rapid executions. It was also his boast that he had not an enemy in the world. No doubt— not in this world.

BAN ON "LAMBETH WALK"

BERLIN, FEB. 2

"The Lambeth Walk," a dance which continues to enjoy a great vogue in Berlin and other large German cities, has fallen under the heavy displeasure of the authorities of the University of Heidelberg. The Party student leader, Dr. Scherberger, has forbidden with immediate effect the dancing and playing of "swing" and "The Lambeth Walk" at any gathering of students.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 1996

NEWS

Kohl plea on nation state

■ Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, yesterday urged Europe to turn its back on the nation state and resist efforts by Britain at the Maastricht review to slow the advance to deeper integration of the Union. Speaking in Louvain, Belgium, he voiced alarm over the growing opposition to the plan for monetary union and steps towards greater harmony...... **Page 1**

IRA is blamed for attack

■ The IRA was believed to have been responsible for an attack on the home of an off-duty police officer in which 57 shots were fired yesterday. The Northern Ireland Office said they were unaware of any motive for the shooting near the village of Moy, Co Tyrone...... **Pages 1, 20 and 21**

Ashdown security

Paddy Ashdown agreed to round-the-clock bodyguards at his constituency in Somerset after his car was destroyed by a petrol bomb...... **Page 1**

Mother's victory

A mother who was accused of being over-protective towards her disabled son won the right to influence his life...... **Page 3**

University talks

Vice-chancellors stepped back from voting on proposals to charge university entrants £300 after an offer of talks...... **Page 4**

Rocket triumph

Steve Bennett'S attempt to become the first amateur to put a rocket into space took a giant leap a successful launch...... **Page 5**

Ten life sentences

A released mental patient who slashed the throats of 15 women in a department store was given 10 life sentences...... **Page 9**

Scargill fights on

Arthur Scargill will renew his campaign to gather support for the Socialist Labour Party despite a poor showing at the Hemsworth by-election...... **Page 10**

Pigeon sentence

An woman who cannot stop feeding pigeons was sent back to prison for 56 days, leaving a trail of angry neighbours...... **Page 11**

Rug-making row

A drive by British charities against importing Indian hand-knotted carpets made by children has divided social activists...... **Page 12**

Forbes under fire

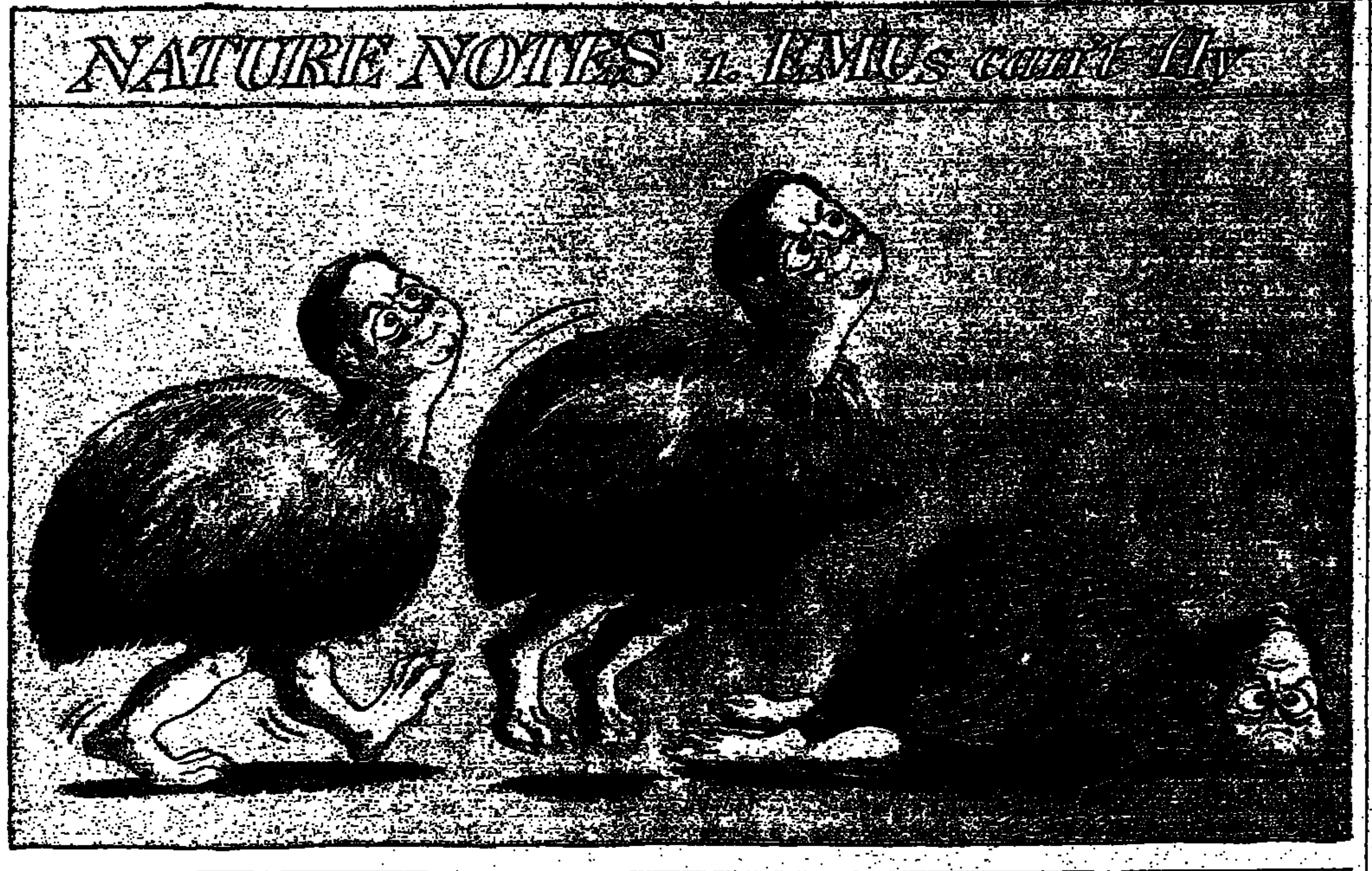
Steve Forbes's free ride is over. Having built up the multimillionaire publisher the American media has begun subjecting him to serious scrutiny...... **Page 13**

Publishing success

The Amazon of French publishing, celebrates her publishing house's tenth anniversary...... **Page 16**

Fox destroys the royal flamingos

■ Buckingham Palace was reeling from its worst security breach since Michael Fagan sat on the Queen's bed and asked for a cigarette. A fox has penetrated the garden and killed the royal flamingos. Police discovered the mutilated bodies of six birds close to their ornamental pond home...... **Page 1**


NATURE NOTES 1. EMUs can't fly

OPINION

To the convention: It would be tragic if Sinn Fein were to refuse to embrace the most important elections of all — to a body which could bring Northern Ireland's people together...... **Page 21**

Per amateur ad astra: Rockets are fired by the imagination as well as liquid hydrogen, ions — or even sugar...... **Page 21**

LETTERS

Judges on sentencing; La Fenice and the fire; practising forgiveness; women at the top; A & L flotation.. **Page 21**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The best hope for Ulster is that Mr Major's formal process neither collapses nor succeeds, that he can keep both extremists at bay...... **Page 20**

John Redwood: As Mr Blair and Mr Clinton have had to accept, people are hungry for pragmatic conservatism. And they want taxes down **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Léonor Fini, painter; **Peter Brooks**, aero-engineer; **Ben Tart**, lifeboat coxswain; **Julian Hill**, chemist who discovered nylon...... **Page 23**

BUSINESS

Airports: British Airways is to create 1,000 new jobs as it switches flights from Heathrow to Gatwick...... **Page 25**

Toy Wars: Mattel, the Barbie doll maker, has abandoned its $5.2 billion offer for Hasbro after accusing the rival American toy company of launching a "scorched earth" campaign to remain independent...... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 gained 28.5 points to 3781.3. Sterling rose from 83.6 to 83.8 after rises from $1.5130 to $1.5190 and from DM2.2593 to DM2.2595...... **Page 28**

SPORT

Rugby union: Today's meeting between Scotland and France is likely to be the defining match of the five nations' championship. England and Wales meet at Twickenham...... **Pages 47, 48**

Cricket: England fly out to Pakistan for the World Cup today with the Pakistan government promising that they will take all possible security measures...... **Page 48**

Football: David Batty's future at Blackburn looks increasingly uncertain after he was again omitted from the squad...... **Page 42**

ARTS

Unhappy birthday: Clumsy amplification and a muddled production mar a centenary staging of Puccini's *La Bohème* in the Albert Hall, says Rodney Milnes...... **Page 17**

Wembley v Manchester: Who will win the race to build Britain's national stadium? Marcus Binney reports...... **Page 19**

CARS

Motoring hype: Cars are now being sold to appeal to the fantasies of the drivers.

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Robert Crampton meets a Chaplin of the 90s. **Page 8**

Louis Farrakhan: Dream of a racially divided America...... **Page 26**

WEEKEND

New Britannia: Vision of a British flagship **Pages 1, 3**

Forestry: How to build your own wood...... **Page 4**

Books: Bestsellers and new paperbacks **Pages 6, 7**

10 15

Solo star: The brains behind East 17...... **Page 6**

Win: A Sony Wide-screen television...... **Page 3**

VISION

Cover story: Alison Hargreaves's children visit her last mountain

Films of the week: The original *Sabrina Fair*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,081

ABERLOUR

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

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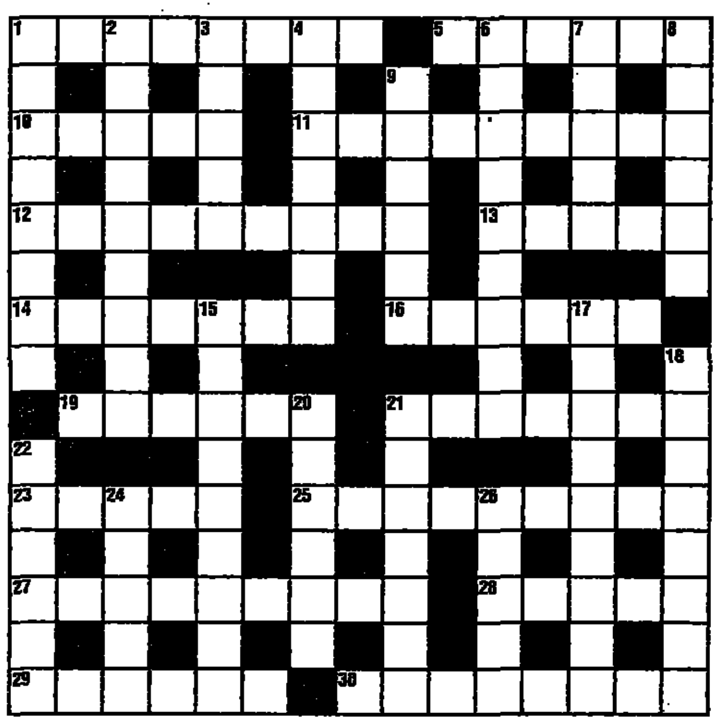


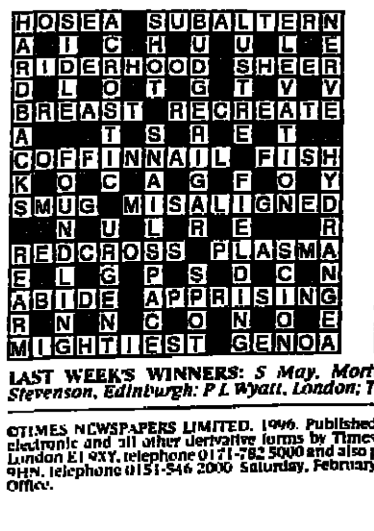
ACROSS

1 At sea, read lots in navigational guide (8).
5 Impostor displays activity and enthusiasm (6).
10 Short run in appearance in silly play (5).
11 Religion takes me in paths our of the normal (9).
12 Don't anticipate being in trouble after delay (4,3,2).
13 Emblem and name required to start computer session (3,2).
14 Group of soldiers cut short prescribed exercise etc. (7).
16 Fast car is what attracts attention? Stepped on it! (3,3).
19 Bit suspiciously at first into fungus (6).
21 Rubbish in the entrance can be a killer (7).
23 At the proper moment, put chalk here (2,3).
25 Bagman pleased to receive several pounds (9).
27 Ratty's friend gets new house in Cornish town (9).
28 I for a change must appear in panto horse (5).
29 Sacred Hindu text — outbursts when false plural is seen (6).
30 Adored by fans, though I did lose badly (8).

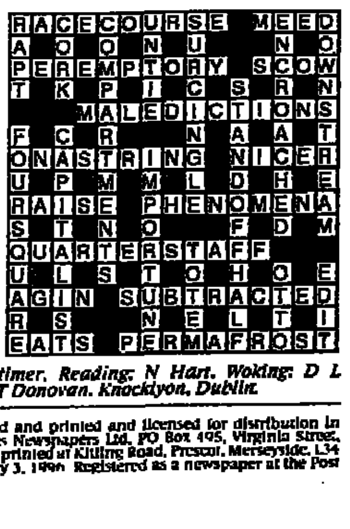
DOWN

1 Departed from hospital, but not going right (8).
2 Died, going wrong with act showing reckless heroism (7-2).
3 Where to find book left, and female? (5).
4 Pain — is right treatment this? (7).
6 In pure perplexity, composer's seen to fill in with padding (9).
7 Living at home, ask to go outside (5).
8 Mischievous girl portrayed in Enigma Variation (6).
9 Melodic fragment from Stravinsky's first, of course (6).
15 Old soldier not usually seen on mount Athos, for example (9).
17 Retiring? Succeeded in getting expenses (9).
18 Neat present for daughter (8).
20 Body of soldiers runs out of restraint (6).
21 Enterprising Indian chief? (2-5).
22 Make a ton in style (6).
24 Large container, worthy companion to another (5).
26 Part of flower — confirm it's round head of plant (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,075



Solution to Puzzle No 20,080



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *S May, Mortimer, Reading; N Hart, Woking; D L Stevenson, Edinburgh; P L Wyatt, London; T Donovan, Knocklyon, Dublin.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.37 am — Sun sets: 4.53 pm

Moon sets 6.29 am — Moon rises 4.09 pm

Full moon tomorrow

London 4.53 pm to 7.25 am
Bristol 5.02 pm to 7.45 am
Edinburgh 4.49 pm to 8.03 am
Manchester 4.54 pm to 7.50 am
Penzance 5.18 pm to 7.53 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.35 am — Sun sets: 4.54 pm

Moon sets 7.00 am — Moon rises 5.11 pm

Last quarter February 12

London 4.54 pm to 7.34 am
Bristol 5.04 pm to 7.43 am
Edinburgh 4.51 pm to 8.01 am
Manchester 4.56 pm to 7.49 am
Penzance 5.20 pm to 7.51 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0.54	6.4	1.20	6.5
Aberdeen	0.38	3.9	12.49	4.2
Avonmouth	6.20	12.3	6.44	12.3
Belfast	10.40	3.4	11.03	3.1
Cardiff	6.08	11.2	6.30	11.1
Devonport	4.50	5.1	5.13	5.0
Dover	10.35	6.1	10.52	6.3
Dublin (N Wall)	11.04	3.9	11.20	3.7
Falmouth	4.11	4.8	4.30	4.6
Greenock	0.01	3.1	12.01	3.4
Harwich	11.10	3.6	11.27	3.7
Holyhead	9.44	5.2	10.01	5.0
Hull (Albert D)	5.29	6.5	5.40	6.9
Ilfracombe	5.16	8.6	5.39	8.7
King's Lynn	5.35	5.9	5.51	6.0
Leith	1.45	4.9	2.04	5.2
Liverpool	10.39	8.9	10.58	8.8
Lowestoft	9.00	2.3	8.54	2.4
Margate	11.41	4.3	11.49	4.4
Milford Haven	5.33	6.4	5.52	6.4
Newquay	4.15	6.1	4.34	6.1
Oban	4.58	3.6	5.27	3.7
Penzance	4.04	5.1	4.21	5.0
Portland	5.42	1.8	6.13	1.7
Portsmouth	10.35	4.4	11.05	4.4
Shoreham	10.34	5.7	11.00	5.8
Southampton	10.07	4.3	10.32	4.3
Swansea	5.41	8.7	6.03	8.8
Tees	2.58	4.6	3.16	4.9
Walton-on-Naze	11.07	4.0	11.22	4.0

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Little Rissington, Gloucestershire, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.12in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 6.8hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a mainly cloudy start but brighter weather will edge steadily south during the day with the best of the blue skies along western coasts. Isolated wintry showers will pepper the North East and these will affect East Anglia and the far South East after dark. Scotland and Northern Ireland can expect a mainly dry day with the occasional light snow flurry in southeast Scotland, dying out during the morning. The east will remain rather cloudy but in the west and across Northern Ireland it will be dry with sunny periods.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel Isles:** cloudy, sunny spells developing. Isolated wintry showers after dark. Wind north to northeast, gentle. Rather cold. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Central S England, E & W Midlands, SW England, Central N:** mainly cloudy, some sunshine developing. Wind north, light to moderate. Rather cold. Max 4C (39F).

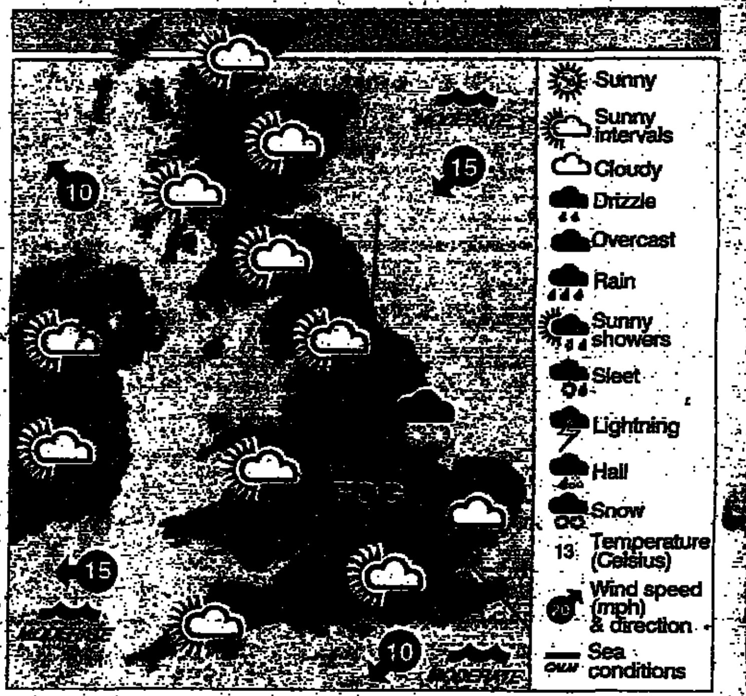
☐ **E & NE England, Borders:** wintry showers dying out later. Sunny spells. Dry after dark. Wind north to northeast, gentle. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **S & N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** dry with some sunshine. Wind northeast moderate. Feeling mild. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with few bright spells. Wind north to northeast gentle. Feeling cold. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** sunny periods. Staying dry. Wind east to southeast gentle. Feeling rather mild. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** east mainly dry and bright, west becoming wet and windy.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

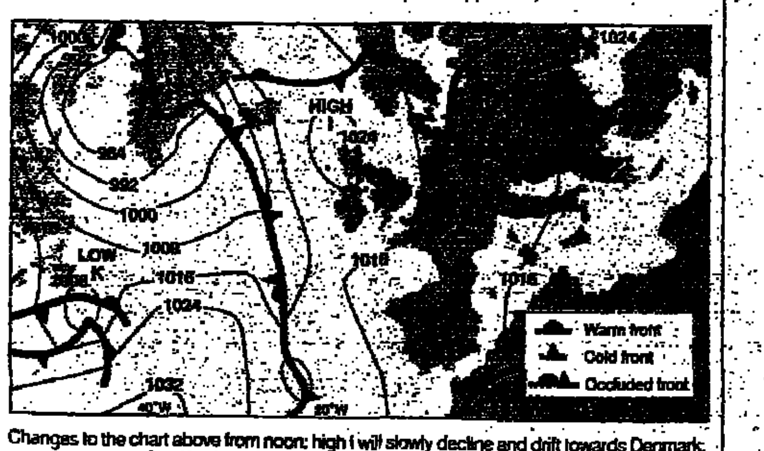
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.2	-	4	39	s	Manchester	-	-	3	37	c
Anglesey	-	-	3	37	c	Margate	-	-	3	37	du
Aspatria	1.0	-	3	37	b	Minehead	0.4	-	2	36	c
Aviemore	0.8	-	1	34	sn	Morecambe	-	-	3	37	du
Belfast	0.2	-	4	39	c	Newcastle	1.5	-	4	39	b
Birmingham	-	-	2	36	sn	Newquay	X				
Bognor R	3.1	-	3	37	s	Norwich	X				
Bournem'th	-	-	3	37	c	Nottingham	X				
Bristol	1.3	-	3	37	sl	Oxford	-	-	2	36	sn
Buxton	-	-	1	34	sn	Penzance	4.9	-	8	46	s
Cardiff	0.6	-	3	37	c	Plymouth	X				
Clacton	2.9	-	2	36	s	Poole	1.6	-	3	37	b
Colwyn Bay	-	-	3	37	c	Prestatyn	X				
Cromer	1.1	-	2	36	c	Ross-o-wye	-	-	2	36	du
Eastbourne	5.4	-	5	41	s	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	1.0	-	2	36	sn	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	3.6	-	4	39	s	Sandown	3.8	-	3	37	b
Falmouth	1.6	-	7	45	b	Sauntn Snd	0.5	-	4	39	c
Fishguard	2.4	-	3	37	b	Scarboro'	X				
Folkestone	2.3	-	4	39	b	Shanklin	2.7	-	3	37	b
Glasgow	6.7	-	6	43	s	Shrewsbury	-	-	2	36	du
Guernsey	3.5	-	8	46	s	Skegness	-	-	2	36	c
Hastings	5.4	-	5	41	s	Southend	3.1	-	3	37	b
Hayling I	2.2	-	3	37	b	Southport	-	-	3	37	c
Hove	3.6	-	5	41	b	Southsea	1.2	-	3	37	c
Hunstanton	-	-	2	36	du	St. Ives	X				
Isle of Man	-	-	4	39	c	Stornoway	X				
Jersey	6.8	-	8	46	s	Swanage	3.0	-	4	39	s
Kinloss	1.1	-	4	39	b	Teignmouth	3.5	-	4	39	s
Leeds	-	-	3	37	sn	Tenby	X				
Lerwick	3.4	0.09	3	37	sh	Tiree	4.9	-	7	45	s
Leuchars	5.9	-	5	41	s	Torquay	3.2	-	6	43	s
Littlehmptn	2.5	-	3	37	s	Tynemouth	X				
Liverpool	-	-	2	36	sn	Ventnor	4.0	-	5	41	s
London	0.1	-	3	37	c	West-s-mare	X				
Lowestoft	1.8	-	2	36	s	Weymouth	0.7	-	4	39	c

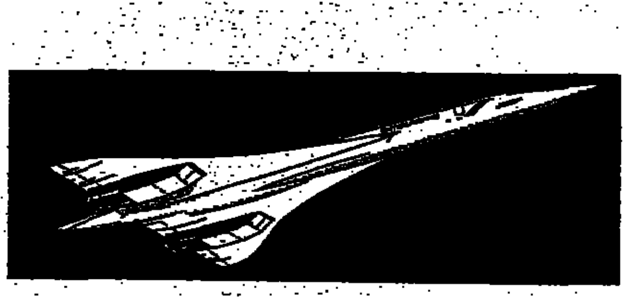
ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	f	Corfu	14	57	s	Madrid	8	46	r	Rome	12	54	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s	C'phagn	-3	27	c	Majorca	15	59	f	S Fr'isco	9	48	c
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dublin	4	39	s	Malaga	18	64	c	S Paulo	X		
Algiers	20	68	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	s	Malta	14	57	r	Salzburg	-3	27	s
Amst'dm	2	36	s	Faro	14	57	r	Melb'rne	19	66	c	Santiago	28	82	s
Athens	5	41	f	Florence	11	52	s	Mexico C	20	68	f	Seoul	-6	21	f
B Aires	25	77	c	Frankfurt	1	34	s	Miami	27	81	f	Sing'por	25	77	r
Bahrain	23	73	s	Funchal	18	64	c	Milan	4	39	c	St'kholm	-6	21	s
Bangkok	27	81	f	Geneva	1	34	c	Montreal	-15	5	s	Strasb'rg	0	32	s
Barbados	27	81	c	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Moscow	-9	16	c	Sydney	27	81	s
Barcelona	10	50	c	Helsinki	-1	30	c	Munich	1	34	s	Tangier	17	63	c
Beirut	19	66	f	Hong K	19	66	s	N Delhi	19	66	f	Tel Aviv	18	64	f
Belgrade	-3	27	s	Innsbrck	3	37	s	N York	-4	25	f	Tenerife	21	70	f
Berlin	-2	28	s	Istanbul	1	34	sn	Nairobi	27	81	s	Tokyo	5	41	c
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	31	88	s	Naples	15	59	s	Toronto	-11	12	f
Biarritz	X			Jo'burg	23	73	f	Nice	5	41	r	Tunis	17	63	f
Borde'x	10	50	s	Karachi	X			Oslo	-8	18	c	Valencia	11	52	r
Brussels	2	36	s	L Angels	14	57	c	Paris	4	39	s	Vanc'ver	-2	28	s
Budapst	-3	27	s	L Palmas	19	66	c	Peking	2	36	s	Venice	5	41	s
Cairo	22	72	s	Le Touquet	4	39	s	Perth	31	88	s	Vienna	-7	19	s
Cape Tn	X			Lisbon	14	57	f	Prague	-7	19	s	Warsaw	-1	30	f
Ch'church	20	68	-	Locarno	3	37	c	Rhodes	13	55	s	Wash'ton	-3	27	c
Chicago	-13	9	s	Luxembg	-1	30	c	Rio de J	30	86	s	Wel'ngton	23	73	-
Cologne	2	36	s	Luxor	28	82	s	Riyadh	24	75	s	Zurich	-4	25	c

Temperatures at midday local time Thursday X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high I will slowly decline and drift towards Denmark; low K will track quickly northeast and deepen sharply



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